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LD1710124888 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced that if he wins the 1 November elections his first priority will be to go back to the 1987 "London Agreement" and call on the United States, Jordan, and "the Palestinians" to attend an international conference that will facilitate direct negotiations, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned Arabs in the territories that there will be "nothing left" of anyone who starts using firearms against Israeli soldiers and civilians, according to HA'ARETZ.

The warning was in response to PLO official Hani al-Hasan's statement that the Palestinians will resort to firearms if the Likud wins the election, the paper said. A report on Al-Hasan's remarks by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio cited him as saying that confrontation will be confined to political means if the Alignment wins the election.

On the situation in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted that two more Arabs died as a result of clashes with the IDF in the West Bank. One was killed when soldiers fired at stonethrowers near Ramallah 14 October; the other died in a Jerusalem hospital of wounds sustained in a clash near Tulkarm earlier in the week.

The radio also reported that 10 Arabs were wounded in further clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 15 October. Three more were wounded in Gaza the following day, according to IDF radio. An Israeli citizen was hospitalized with serious injuries after being stabbed during a 15 October visit to the West Bank town of Janin, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

PLO Developments

A senior PLO source told AFP in Tunis that the PNC will meet 31 October but will not announce its decisions until after the Israeli elections, thereby ensuring that Palestinian policies do not affect the Israeli campaign. AFP's sources confirmed that the PNC will be asked to endorse a declaration of an independent Palestinian "state," but added that proposals for a provisional "government" have been dropped.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian situation during a 16 October meeting in Tripoli, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. 'Arafat informed the Libyan leader about preparations for convening the emergency PNC session.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Clashes—Syrian forces intervened to calm the situation in southern Beirut after clashes erupted between the Amal Movement and Hizballah over the weekend, Beirut radio reported. Amal sources cited by the radio said the fighting was triggered by kidnappings carried out by Hizballah personnel.

Hizballah accused Amal of beginning an arrest campaign against its supporters in southern Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The Hizballah statement claimed that Amal recently detained 180 Hizballah members, expelled 35 from the south, and "liquidated" many fundamentalists in the Al-Biqa' area.

Muslim-Christian Relations—The Lebanese Forces (LF) and Lebanese Army have "upset the military balance" by obtaining five shiploads of weapons and ammunition, Amal leader Nabih Birri contended in remarks cited by Beirut radio 14 October. He said the weapons recently received in East Beirut include tanks and 155-mm guns.

Birri reaffirmed his opposition to partition and called for the formation of a government of reconciliation, comprising "all the elements" including the "hawks." Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently cited a statement by Birri expressing willingness to meet with LF leader Samir Ja'ja' "if it is proved that Ja'ja' is opposed to the Israeli line."

An LF official described this as "positive" but viewed Birri's condition as part of a Syrian-inspired "distortion campaign," the radio noted.

Algeria

Algiers television announced 15 October that all of the approximately 500 minors who were arrested during the riots were released. It added that the only people being detained were those accused of vandalism and that trials had been halted until the defendants could be guaranteed their right to defense.

AFP reported, however, that more people were arrested on 15 October and that large groups of demonstrators went on trial 16 October.

Egypt

Demonstrations—A group of demonstrators marched through Cairo 15 October carrying knives and demanding the release of Islamic detainees, MENA reported. The police brought the situation under control and the Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation.

Libyan Relations—"A responsible Egyptian source" cited by MENA denied an AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report that Egypt and Libya are studying a formula of understanding proposed by Sudan to improve relations and prevent regional confrontations.

Soviet Middle East Policy

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy told Kuwait's AL-QABAS that the political dialogue with Saudi Arabia is at "an advanced stage" and that the USSR intends to resume or establish ties with all of the states in the region. He denied that the USSR has consular relations with Israel and said diplomatic relations will be impossible until an international Middle East peace conference is held.

Oil Issues

GCC oil ministers held a closed session in Riyadh 16 October, SPA reported. They announced in a press statement issued afterward that they will adhere to production levels that were agreed upon within the framework of OPEC.

Iran

Friday Prayers—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani called for cooperation with the southern Gulf states in forming a joint petroleum pact to curb excess supply. Speaking during a prayer sermon carried by Tehran radio, he also said Iran has the resources necessary for reconstruction, claiming it is second only to the USSR in gas reserves and mines gold of better quality than South Africa.

He warned reconstruction could be impeded by the nation's wealthy class, corrupt officials inside and outside the government, or by fanatics unable to adjust to current circumstances.

Peace Talks—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati "clarified" Iran's position 17 October with regard to the peace talks with Iraq, saying Iran will cooperate in the execution of all the articles of UN Resolution 598, Tehran radio announced. He added Iran is "totally prepared" to implement the resolution's second clause and to exchange prisoners.

Kurdish Refugees—During their 14 October talks in Ankara, Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri told Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz that accepting more Iraqi Kurdish refugees would create problems both for the refugees and for Iran, IRNA reported. Yilmaz announced his country's readiness to solve the refugees' problems and settle them permanently in Turkey.

Afghanistan

The Armed Forces killed 35 "extremists" in Gardeyz, including 2 U.S. advisers and 2 Pakistani officers, Kabul radio announced. The radio also said the rebels fired heavy weapons at residential areas of Kabul and Jalalabad 16 October.

Resistance sources cited by Islamabad radio claimed to have shot down eight Soviet-Afghan helicopters in Vardak, Helmand, and Ghazni Provinces recently. The radio reported that the mujahidin have captured or destroyed 10 security posts in the Sarowbi area between Kabul and Qandahar. According to TASS, rebel claims of capturing Jalalabad, Paghman, Qandahar, and Asadabad are "absurd lies."

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Death—The Pakistani team investigating the plane crash that killed the late President Ziaul Haq said the crash was caused by a "sophisticated act of sabotage" that may have incapacitated the pilot and copilot, Islamabad radio disclosed. The team ruled out technical failure and said there was no evidence of an explosion.

Islamic Law—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan promulgated enforcement of Shari'a Revised Ordinance 1988, making shari'a the supreme source of law, effective immediately, Islamabad radio announced 16 October.

Elections—Two factions of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) joined forces 14 October, AFP reported. The factions, led by Fida Mohammad Khan and Mohammad Khan Junejo, decided to merge in the interests of the PML, a Junejo spokesman said.

A poll cited by AFP taken 15 October gave the PML a slight edge over Pakistan People's Party, but indicated that 35 percent of voters are undecided.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC To Meet 31 Oct; 'Arafat Moscow Visit Denied

JN1510125188 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Oct 88 pp 1, 19

[By Muhammad al-Qabisi]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Reliable Palestinian sources in Tunis have affirmed to AL-QABAS that the PNC will hold its emergency session in the Algerian capital on 31 October to discuss existing Palestinian options, including the declaration of a Palestinian state and a provisional government, in light of the findings reached by the committees recently formed for this purpose which are now putting the final touches on their reports.

These Palestinian sources also denied rumors PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would visit Moscow. [passage omitted]

Asked how the Palestinian groups in Syria would be able to attend the coming PNC session, an official Palestinian source said: "The recent meetings in Tripoli were very positive. The Libyan leader will mediate between the PLO on the one hand and Syria and the dissident Palestinian groups—Al-Sa'iqah and the PFLP-GC—on the other. The Libyan leader could rectify the situation before the PNC convenes."

In light of the Palestinian meetings held in Tunis, AL-QABAS has learned that the meetings of the past 2 days between a delegation representing the Islamic movement, Hamas, and the Palestinian resistance groups have produced positive results, strengthening national unity in the occupied territory and ending recent differences.

AL-RAYAH Cited on Possible PNC Postponement

JN1610084588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 16 Oct (WAKH)— Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that the extraordinary PNC session will be held on 31 October and continue for 6 days.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Al-Hasan said the Palestinian leadership will meet next week to choose the venue of the session and added it will be either Tunis or Algiers.

Meanwhile, the newspaper quoted other Palestinian sources, which it described as responsible, as saying that fixing 31 October for holding the PNC session is tentative and that the PNC session might be postponed to a later date.

The sources added that the postponement, if it materializes, will be caused by several reasons, including that the situation in Algiers, the venue agreed upon, does not allow for the convening of the session.

Besides, the sources went on to say, convening the PNC session in another Arab capital will be embarrassing after an agreement was secured on the issue with Algeria, which will be preoccupied with arrangements for the referendum that will be held there on 3 November.

The sources said that fixing 31 October as a tentative date for holding the PNC session is tantamount to an affirmation that the Palestinian stand is not linked to the U.S. or Israeli elections.

PLO 'Source' Says PNC To Meet 31 Oct

NC1610154688 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tunis, Oct 16 (AFP)—The PLO's legislative body will meet October 31 but will withhold announcement of its decisions until after Israeli elections November 1, a senior Palestiniasn Liberation Organisation source said here Sunday.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) decisions would not become known until after the election in Israel to ensure that Palestinian policies do not become part of the Israeli campaign, a PLO official explained.

The 453-member PNC will be asked to endorse a declaration that proclaims an independent Palestinian state but makes no reference to fixed borders or to relevant United Nations resolutions, well-informed sources said.

A separate political program implicitly stating PLO recognition of Israel, in exchange for an Israeli recognition of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, will also be put before the PNC, the sources said.

They added that proposals for a provisional Palestinian government had been dropped.

In its political programme, the PNC was expected to endorse UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 if the international body agreed to match this recognition by backing Palestinian self-determiantion, the sources said.

The resolutions stipulates the right of all states in the Middle East to live in peace and security but say nothing about Palestinian statehood.

The political programme was also likely to underscore Palestinian rights by referring to UN Resolution 181 of 1947, which called for the partition of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state.

Palestinian sources said the programme, finally, would reaffirm support for an international Middle East peace conference and would renew its backing for the 1985 Cairo Declaration by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, condemning violent tactics outside "occupied Palestine."

The PLO called for an emergency session of the PNC following the July 31 decision by Jordan's King Husayn to sever administrative and legal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank. It was not clear yet where the PNC would meet.

PLO's Hani al-Hasan Welcomes Murphy Remarks

NC1510143788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal also attended the meeting.

Afterward, Al-Hasan said he reviewed the important results of Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He stated that this visit has given an impetus to Egyptian-Palestinian relations, particularly to joint coordination of political action, and that the results of this visit will emerge in the coming stage, with joint Egyptian-Palestinian action in all political fields.

Al-Hasan welcomed the recent statements by Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs. He said: There is an important development in the U.S. view of the Palestinian issue and we are observing and following this with extreme interest. The PLO has to gain the support of Europe, the United States, Canada, and Japan to complete international legitimacy for its political ideas and aims.

The Palestinian official added: We have noted that, in his meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, President Reagan focused on the need to realize the Palestinian people's political rights. Murphy's statements have added to the acknowledgement of political rights a practical and clear endorsement of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, even though he has expressed this in different words.

Al-Hasan went on to say: We must await the results of the U.S. election to see if the incoming U.S. Administration will take the insufficient, albeit important, developments that have emerged so far in U.S. politics any further.

In addition, the PLO leader's political adviser commented on the Israeli non-recognition of the PLO. He said the Israelis cannot bypass established fact. Palestinian authority and the Palestinian state exist today in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They are a fact.

He expressed surprise at the policy pursued by Israel's Labor Party in which the roles are distributed. He said: We see Shim'on Peres traveling all over the world coming out with flexible political talk, while Yitzhaq Rabin carries out his repressive practices in the occupied territories—repressions which are intensifying daily. We are used to this from the Labor Party and the Likud bloc.

He added: The Likud is talking violently to its electorate while it sends envoys and proposals to us through European countreis and through Sharon, who visited Romania recently.

Concluding his statement, Al-Hasan said all Israeli attempts to suppress the Palestinian uprising will fail. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin must understand that the more intense his repression becomes the more the confrontation will escalate, he declared.

Al-Hasan: 'Arms Instead of Stones' If Shamir Wins

NC1510083588 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0705 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, said in Abu Dhabi yesterday that the Palestinians will carry arms instead of stones if Shamir wins the Israeli general election.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD newspaper, Brother al-Hasan added that the PNC will convene at the end of October to proclaim an independent state. He noted that the results of the Israeli election will be known at the beginning of November and this will enable the PNC to determine the mode of confrontation.

Brother al-Hasan pointed out that if Shamir wins, the Palestinians will be ready to deal with the situation in a different way and will resort to the use of bullets and acts of violence. However, he added this confrontation will be confined to political methods if Zionist Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres wins the election.

'Abbas: PLO Accepts 242 'Basis' for Solution

JN1710095488 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Oct (WAM)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, has announced that the PLO delegation that visited Moscow recently informed the Soviet officials of the PLO's acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 242 as a basis to solve the Middle East issue provided it is amended by the addition of a new paragraph affirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Abu Mazin, who led the PLO's delegation to Moscow, said the USSR supports and backs this stand, which is one of the basic proposals and topics for discussion with the American side.

Abu Mazin added the Soviet officials will convey this stand to the U.S. Administration. He affirmed that serious consultations are under way between Washington and Moscow on convening an international peace conference.

Abu Mazin said there are no differences in viewpoints between the PLO and Moscow on the proclamation of a Palestinian state, as the Soviets support the proclamation of the state regardless of whether or not the international conference will convene.

Algeria

Islamic Fundamentalists Demonstrate 'Peacefully'

LD1410215888 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] This time things really do appear to be peaceful again in Algeria. There were no incidents today, which was a day of prayer in the mosques. However, Islamic fundamentalists demonstrated today, albeit peacefully, and stated their demands in a 12-point program. These include an end to the state of emergency which, they claim, has been in force since independence in 1962.

Firecrackers Banned in Algiers; Protests in Paris

NC1510162788 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, Oct 15 (AFP)—The Algerian authorities Saturday banned fireworks in the lead-up to the Muslim festival of Mouloud on October 23 so as to avoid what they called "any mishaps" in a country shaken by recent bloody riots. Citing the need to maintain public order and safety, an interior ministry communique urged parents in particular to have "their children strictly obey" the nationwide ban on firecrackers and "all other pyrotechnic devices". Observers said that, without firecrackers, the festival celebrating the birth of the Prophet Muhammad would be like "Christmas without Santa Claus".

In Paris meanwhile, an estimated 800 demonstrators Saturday called for "an end to repression in Algeria". They appealed to Algerian authorities to release detainees, believed to number several thousand, and return the bodies of people killed to their families. During the protest, organized by about 20 groups including the Committee for Human Rights and Liberty in Algeria, several speakers demanded that President Chadli Bendjedid resign and free elections be held in the country, a former French colony. A similar demonstration in the French capital Thursday drew thousands.

Arrested Minors, Protesters Released

LD1510200588 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] We learned a short while ago that all the minors arrested recently for their participation in the disturbances—about 500—have been returned to their parents. We have also learned that those arrested for voicing their opinions have been released, except those who were proved to have participated in acts of vandalism. Trials in special courts have been stopped to enable defendants to have the right to defense, which enshrined in the law.

'Large Groups' of Demonstrators on Trial

NC1610153688 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, Oct 16 (AFP)—Large groups of demonstrators arrested in Algeria's recent riots went on trial here Sunday despite reports that authorities had suspended the hastily-arranged trials earlier, the defendants' lawyers said. Meanwhile authorities arrested more people on Saturday, lawyers added. About 50 adolescents appeared in court Sunday during several sessions called in an attempt to try as many of them as possible at one time, several lawyers said.

Newly-arrested people, wearing hoods to hide their faces, were brought into courtrooms and encouraged to denounce peers suspected of having participated in the unrest. The method, dubbed "bouchkara" meaning "hooded man", was used by the French against Algerians in 1957 during the Algerian war for independence. Lawyers said the judges might deliberate late into the evening before announcing their verdicts.

Relatives said about 20 other youths, aged between 17 and 20, appeared in the public prosectuor's office at Cheraga, near Algiers, to face charges of vandalizing public and private property during the riots. Relatives said they believed the group had been held in the nearby Coupole sports stadium or at a farm near Hamiz, east of the capital. However, some regional courts—including those in Blida, Medea, Khemis Miliana, Berrouaghia and Bab el-Oued—had postponed similar trials for a week or two because of damage to courtrooms during the recent unrest, reliable sources said.

Algerian newspapers said late Saturday authorities had shelved plans to go ahead with special trials of alleged rioters after the officially-recognized League of Human Rights and the Algiers Bar Association charged the procedure violated the defendants' legal rights. Nationwide riots against the government and its economic austerity measures erupted a fortnight ago and lasted a week, leaving hundreds dead and serious damage in several cities.

Meanwhile reliable sources denied persistent rumours here that General Mohammed Attailia, chief of the first military region, had been wounded during a quarrel with one of his officers over army action during the rioting. They said he was at his headquarters in the town of Blida early Sunday. A senior official also denied the reports. Gen. Attailia, 69, a member of the ruling FLN party since 1979, is said to have been responsible for a crackdown on demonstrations in support of ousted President Ahmed Ben Bella in 1965, after a coup by Colonel Houari Boumedience. He lost his right arm during the 1954-62 war of independence.

Human Rights Leaders on Freedom, Press

LD1410125088 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] One of yesterday's noteworthy events was a press conference by Miloud Brahimi, chairman of the Algerian Human Rights League, who calls for dialogue. Kamel Jaider, our special correspondent in Algiers, met Mr Brahimi and others. [passage omitted]

[Jaider] The reform measures announced by Chadli Bendjedid have been quite well received, even by Ali Yahia, chairman of the Human Rights League—not recognized by the authorities. Here is his reaction:

[Begin Yahia recording] With this democratization—I do not say democracy—democratization of the institutions of the state and people. If there is freedom of expression—for a balance—if it is not an insult for me to express an opinion which is contrary to yours or to that of other Algerian citizens—however important he may be—you know that all progress in society results from discussion and must therefore be established. If we do not establish it, there are, on the one hand, the Islamicists who will take advantage of the situation, because inside the mosque they have certain rights of expression; and on the other hand, there is just the street. We would like to avoid these two extremes, because we love our country and we do not, in fact, want to pursue extreme solutions but political solutions and a normal development of all the institutions of the country toward a state under law, democratization, and then the search for democracy. There you are. [end recording]

[Jaider] Miloud Brahimi, chairman of the other Algerian human rights league—the one recognized by the authorities—said more or less the same as Ali Yahia.

[Begin Brahimi recording] Alas, I could say that I am unhappy that the national press has published none of the communiques which I have just read to you. You would know if you attended our seminar on censorship and self- censorship how hard we came down on this press. I will also say that I believe deeply in change and I want it earnestly. Because we have no choice, we cannot embark on the 21st century—to which we are close—with a media which is so Soviet, or to be more precise, lacking information. [end recording]

New Editor Appointed for FLN Weekly

NC1610110388 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, Oct 16 (AFP)—Veteran newsman Abdelaali Farrah has been appointed editor of the Algerian ruling FLN party weekly "REVOLUTION AFRICAINE", whose former editor resigned after last week's nationwide riots, the newspaper's management said Sunday. Mr. Farrah is a former editor of the daily EL MOUDJAHID and the evening daily EL MASSA. The outgoing editor, Zoubir Zemzoum, has been appointed to the FLN party's information service. On Saturday, REVOLUTION AFRICAINE appeared for the first time without its usual list of editorial staff and contributors. The editorial, entitled "Safeguarding Unity", was unsigned.

Cooperation Committee With Cuba Begins Meeting

LD1610180288 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The sixth session of the Algerian-Cuban cooperation committee opened this morning at the Foreign Ministry. During the opening session the two sides reviewed cooperation between the two countries and assessed the results and the possibilities of widening and supporting cooperation at a time when south-south cooperation has become more necessary. Concerning economic cooperation, the two sides stressed that the economic crisis did not allow the implementation of some joint projects, therefore the committee will look for forms of cooperation which take into consideration the current economic situation. As for cultural and technical cooperation, the two sides recorded their satisfaction with the results achieved in this sphere and stressed the necessity to extend it.

Egypt

Demonstrators Demand Release of Islamic Detainees

NC1510154188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1517 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—A limited number of individuals, thought to be members of extremist groups, assembled in front of the Higher Court Building [Dar al-Qada' al-'Ali] on 26 July street in central Cairo this afternoon. They chanted anti-government slogans and demanded that detained members of Islamic groups be released.

When the demonstrators marched to the Bulaq District with knives, security forces intercepted them near the 15 May bridge and dispersed them. The incident resulted in the injuring of police officer Majdi Shakir and the breaking of a police car's windshield. Four demonstrators were arrested.

The police successfully brought the situation under complete control. Traffic in the area, one of the busiest in the city, was not hindered. The Prosecutor's Office has begun investigating.

Source Denies Mediation Efforts With Libya

NC1510133788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1319 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—A responsible Egyptian source has stated that no formula of understanding between Egypt and Libya has been proposed. He added that there is no mediation between Egypt and Libya in this regard.

The source was commenting on a report published by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT paper which said that Egypt and Libya are still studying a formula of understanding proposed by Sudan in an attempt to improve relations between Cairo and Tripoli and to prevent any regional confrontation or conflict between them.

'Abd al-Majid on Coordination With Palestinians

NC1610133888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—In a statement after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, asserted that Egyptian-Palestinian coordination is now stronger than ever before. The Palestinians have full confidence in Egypt's role and activities, which always aim to promote the Palestinian viewpoint, he declared.

'Abd al-Majid noted U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's important statements yesterday and his reference to UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, which is of great significance because it provided for the establishment of Arab and Jewish states. He said the United States and Western countries agreed on this resolution and the Israelis adhered to it, viewing it as Israel's birth certificate, while the Arabs rejected it. Now, after 41 years have elapsed, the Arabs believe that the resolution contains positive aspects. 'Abd al-Majid said there is a dialogue now going on about this resolution, which grants international legitimacy to an Arab state. He asked: Why did Israel, at the time, consider the resolution to be its birth certificate? Why should it not be considered the birth certificate of a Palestinian state? This is the natural logic we are talking about, he added.

Noting his earlier statement that Resolution 181 could be relied on in the establishment of a Palestinian state, 'Abd al-Majid said: There are objections to the aforementioned resolution by the other party, because of the border issue. However, we are not talking about borders. We are talking about the legitimacy of establishing a Palestinian entity.

Answering a question on the postponement of the PNC session until 31 October, he said: Perhaps this delay will provide the opportunity for further study and consideration of the PLO stand, which is encouraging. In the meantime, the Palestinians have begun to draw up invitations and are engaged in deciding on a venue for the PNC session, he stated.

'Abd al-Majid added: There is full coordination between us and the Palestinians. President Husni Mubarak's meetings with Yasir 'Arafat strengthen this coordination. He noted it is apparent now that Egypt has assumed the leading role in peace moves. He pointed out that the main theme of talks while he was in the United States and during the tripartite [as received] meeting he held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan was the establishment of peace and the search for a solution to the Palestinian issue.

Cabinet Discusses Implementation of Tabah Ruling

NC1610093588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] At a session chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi yesterday evening, the cabinet discussed the measures being taken by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to implement the international arbitration panel's verdict on Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah, according to the provisions of the arbitral compromise between Egypt and Israel. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated this today, adding that the cabinet had stressed that the ruling should be implemented in accordance with the timetable set by the arbitral compromise.

Further on Cabinet Meeting

NC1610135488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At its meeting last night, the cabinet discussed the political and economic results of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Yugoslavia, Britain, France, and the FRG. The cabinet also reviewed the results of the meeting among President Ronald Reagan and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which was attended by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the cabinet heard a report from the interior minister on the internal situation and on the measures taken to ensure the safety of society. The interior minister stressed that the security organs are taking the necessary steps to implement the law and to have those responsible for violating security interrogated. [passage omitted]

Warning of Incidents 'Similar' to Algeria Given

NC1510173188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, leader of the New Wafd Party, has warned Egypt may witness incidents similar to those which took place recently in Algeria. Siraj al-Din, leader of the largest Egyptian opposition party, said the Algerian incidents could happen in any country where there is little respect for the dignity of the individual and where the people are deprived of democracy and forced to live under unjustified emergency laws.

Kuwaiti Trade Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1410180188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1657 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Faysal al-Khalid, Kuwaiti minister of trade and industry, left Cairo this afternoon following a 5-day visit.

During his stay in Cairo, the Kuwaiti minister took part in the inauguration of the Islamic trade exhibition recently held in Cairo. He also held talks with several Egyptian officials on ways to bolster economic relations and increase Kuwaiti investments in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Arab Fund Chairman From Kuwait Arrives 14 Oct

NC1410173988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1653 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—A Kuwaiti delegation led by 'Abd al-Latif Hamad, chairman of the Arab Social and Economic Development Fund, arrived in Cairo this evening at the beginning of a visit of several days, during which they will meet with President Husni Mubarak.

Upon arrival, Mr Hamad expressed pleasure at his first visit to Egypt since its reinstitution in the Fund. He said that he will hold talks with Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, on financing certain projects in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Discusses New Projects

NC1510125388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, today discussed the promotion of economic cooperation ties between Egypt and the fund through the fund's financing of a number of basic projects in Egypt.

Dr Makramallah has stated that the Arab Fund is studying a new program for financing projects in Egypt now that Egypt has paid its full share, amounting to about 40.5 million Kuwauti dinars, in the fund's capital. It is recalled that Egypt had obtained eight loans from the fund totalling about 68 million Kuwaiti dinars. Egypt's membership in the Arab development fund was frozen in 1979, but this was rescinded at the Arab finance ministers meeting in Muscat in April.

Meets With President Mubarak

NC1610124988 Cairo MENA in English 1151 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 16 (MENA)—Chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad has affirmed the fund's commitment to cooperate with Egypt on the achievement of economic and social development. Following a meeting with President Mubarak earlier this morning, Al-Hamad said that the fund was planning to contribute to development activities with emphasis on electricity, industrial, and agricultural domains.

Meanwhile, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for Administrative Development Dr 'Atif 'Ubayh said that the Arab Fund is one of the best financial organizations to deal with as it advances easy-term loans at a very low interest rate (3 percent) with long periods of grace.

Reviews Projects With Sidqi

NC1610154888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, in his office today. Dr Sidqi said they reviewed the projects which the Fund could finance in light of 'Abd al-Latif Hamad's talks with the ministers concerned. 'Abd al-Latif Hamad said his visit to Cairo underlines the Arab Fund's desire to help finance some of the development projects in Egypt.

Ghali, Soviet Ambassador Review Bilateral Ties

NC1510150788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev. The two officials reviewed means of strengthening bilateral relations and preparations for the visit by the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society delegation to Cairo in November.

Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said that he briefed Dr Ghali on the latest developments in the Soviet Union and on the coming session of the Soviet parliament which will amend the Constitution and hold elections. He added that bilateral relations were also discussed.

Moroccan, Ugandan Commerce Ministers Arrive

NC1610072788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Abdallah Azmati, Moroccan minister of commerce and industry, arrived in Cairo early this morning for a 3-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade. During his stay, the Moroccan minister

will hold several meetings with Egyptian officials to promote trade between the two countries. He will also attend the current Islamic trade exhibition in Cairo and Moroccan Day which will be held at the exhibition.

Ugandan Miniser of Commerce George Kanyeihamba also arrived in Cairo early this morning for a visit of several days, during which he will discuss trade matters with Egyptian officials.

Sudanese Public Works Minister Arrives 16 Oct
NC1610165688 Cairo MENA in English 1652 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 16 (MENA)—Sudanese Minister of Public Works and Housing 'Uthmam 'Umar al-Sharif arrived here today from Jordan on a three-day visit.

In a statement upon arrival, the Sudanese official said the visit falls within the framework of cordial relations. It also aims at getting acquainted with achievements in the field of communication, increasing cooperation in the fields of roads and bridges and exchanging expertise.

YAR Prime Minister Arrives 17 October
NC1710105588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1046 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani arrived in Cairo at noon today, leading a delegation on a 3-day official visit. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi led the delegation who received the guest.

3d Army Commander Speaks on Field Modernization
NC1410164188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Major General Salah 'Atiyah Halabi, commander of the 3d Field Army, has announced that, using the world's most advanced military systems as a standard and taking into account the experience gained in the October 1973 war, the 3d Army units and their weaponry are currently at their optimal level of combat readiness and training. He pointed out that there is great openness toward other countries such as the United States and the European, Arab, and Asian nations in the exchange of expertise and training, and that the knowledge gained is transferred in such a way that will suit our methods and combat doctrines.

Interviewed by 'Adil 'Abd al-'Aziz, MENA military editor, Maj Gen Halabi said the 3d Army attaches special importance to training and preparation of cadres. Therefore, he added, the Army established a special school called the battle school, which conducts classes and courses for officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. The school also teaches foreign languages to Army personnel. The 3d Army's weaponry has gone through major communications and technical development and the latest equipment is marked by light weight, speed, and greater accuracy. Explaining that the 3d Army gives priority to the maintenance and extension of the life of its equipment, he said that over 70 percent of the main weapons systems are kept indoors to protect them from various weather conditions.

As part of the Armed Forces' plan to build camps and military towns, he said, and thus to maintain the combat performance of its personnel by providing full medical, living, and entertainment facilities, the 3d Army has finished construction on four military cities. He noted that 50 percent of the Army's units live within fully serviced camps. Gen Halabi pointed out that the 3d Field Army has begun a new experiment to provide assistance to the Sinai residents. He said that a medical convoy consisting of a mobile hospital had visited villages in the South Sinai Governorate in coordination with the governorate and that similar convoys will be sent out every 3 months. [passage omitted]

Touching on innovations in training, the 3d Field Army commander said that training has been considerably developed through the introduction of several modern techniques, particularly weapons simulators. This, he added, provides unlimited training hours for every individual, thus saving time for other training, economizing on fuel and ammunition, and minimizing the wear and tear on battle equipment.

Maj Gen Halabi pointed out that shooting drills are also carried out with the help of small weapons and tank simulation equipment, as well as electronic shooting ranges, which save ammunition. [passage omitted]

Maj Gen Halabi said that the so-called joint arms battles which involve various elements in joint training receive considerable attention from the Armed Forces because there is no discrimination now between troops and fighting elements. He explained that the ground forces work alongside the Air Force, the air defense forces, and the Navy during off-shore exercises.

On armament, Maj Gen Halabi pointed out that the 3d Field Army possesses the most sophisticated weapons, in addition to older weapons whose lives have been extended. He said the infantry is now equipped with weapons that are lighter and fire more efficiently. These weapons enable the infantry to work around the clock. He noted that night vision equipment and modes of transport have become flexible and provide individuals with the ability to maneuver during battle.

The 3d Army commander stressed that the development of organizational structures must go hand in hand with that of armament. He noted that experience gained after the glorious October war has enabled the Armed Forces to pay more attention to strengthening their units and individuals and to continuously introducing new arms. He said the 3d Army is constantly developing training methods and enhancing the efficiency of its equipment.

The 3d Army coordinates with the Armed Forces' major branches to meet all training requirements in the Air Force, the Navy, and the Air Defense branches.

Speaking of the Armed Forces' plan to establish military townships, the 3d Army commander said that we look upon the fighter who sacrifices his life for the homeland as the most important asset. Hence, we have to provide him with all possible care through the establishment of the best camps which help to maintain the highest standard of fighting efficiency. He said that the 3d Field Army has actually established four military townships, and noted that the Armed Forces allocate funds annually for this purpose, in addition to funds from individual units.

He said that the Armed Forces are in the process of establishing camps similar to those recently inaugurated by President Husni Mubarak. He added that these camps are being built according to modern designs which gather each unit in one place according to a pattern uniform throughout the army. This way, he added, the commanders can practice full control of all units.

The 3d Army commander concluded that over 50 percent of our major units are living in integrated camps which provide full accomodation facilities for their individuals.

Government Decides To Increase Crude Oil Prices
NC1610163988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Egypt has decided to increase the price of its oil by 30 cents a barrel, as follows: $11.30 for crude from the Suez Gulf and Ra's al-Bihar; $10.45 for Bala'im crude; $9.30 for Badran crude; and $9 for the Ra's Gharib crude. [passage omitted]

7 Remanded in Custody for Al-Mahallah Riots
NC0810154088 Cairo MENA in English 1438 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Tanta, Lower Egypt, Oct 8 (MENA)—Head of Al-Mahallah al-Kubra prosecutions Muhammad Tawfiq al-Qadi today ordered the release of two persons involved in the riots which took place on September 21 at some plants here.

He also ruled that seven others be remanded in custody for fifteen days pending investigation.

It is noteworthy that 22 persons accused of taking part in the same incidents have been earlier released.

Locust Swarms Destroyed on Border With Sudan
NC1610154288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Dr Yasin Muhammad 'Uthman, under secretary of the Agriculture Ministry for combating agricultural blights affairs, has declared that four swarms of locusts ranging in size from 20 to 40 km each have been destroyed so far in the northern area of Sudan and the southern desert area of Egypt.

Dr Yasin added that rain fell for 5 hours on northern Sudan yesterday, which helped to increase the number and spread of the locusts. He emphasized that the campaign to fight the swarms in the northern area of Sudan and the southern area of Egypt is continuing. Dr Yasin said that the situation in northern Sudan threatens Egypt's southern border because an (?invasion) of locusts from the east and west does not occur at this time of the year.

Ex-Queen Faridah Dies in Cairo Hospital 16 Oct
NC1610124488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Egypt's ex-Queen Faridah died in a Cairo hospital at dawn today. She had been in a coma since she was admitted to the intensive care unit on 2 October.

Paper on Media 'Misinterpretation' of Algeria
JN1610161988 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 88 p 4

["Week's End" column by Muhammad Abu al-Hadid]

[Text] Last Sunday's and Monday's statements by President Mubarak have served to redress some of our media's misrepresentation of the Algerian incidents. The treatment of the events, at times, seemed to be lacking in any appreciation not only of the interests of Algeria—a sisterly Arab country—but also of Egypt itself.

Surprisingly, some newspaper banner headlines appeared to have a hint of gloating or inciting more of the same, with pictures of Ahmed Ben Bella and antigovernment statements by the former Algerian president appearing on front pages. Rather than disinterestedly reporting of the incidents, some newspapers seemed to take a stand on them and the Algerian regime. The question to ask is whether our media's behavior was compatible with Egypt's best interests.

The underlying causes of the Algerian eruption are essentially economic. Egypt is similarly afflicted: a mushrooming population growth—there are 22 million Algerians—a $20-billion foreign debt; declining foreign currency reserves and the consequent unemployment and collapse in oil prices [as plublished]; prohibitive consumer and foodstuff prices; and a shortage of housing—problems that have hit the younger segment of the population hardest.

The explosion was initiated or used by Algerian religious extremists. They set out from mosques to pour fuel on the fire and contributed to a vandalization of public and other property as sometimes happens in certain Egyptian governorates.

In other words, Egypt and Algeria share the same problem and are up against the same kind of danger. I am virtually certain that the manipulators are the same and therefore whatever happens in this or that Arab country bears on the rest of them. It follows that there is no time for gloating. We ought to be looking for a formula of common Arab action with which to tackle our common distress.

As for bringing Ahmed Ben Bella back into the limelight, there is no denying his stature as an Algerian struggler. It is for history to judge him, for one thing, and it is a strictly Algerian affair with which we had best not concern ourselves. Because we in Egypt are standard bearers of legitimacy and therefore must not for one moment drop our guard. There are too many heirs in our midst—heirs to the throne by right or by pretention alike, or heirs to the 23 July Revolution—both bona fide revolutionaries and phoneys. Add to all that a political axiom seen from the pragmatic angle of Egypt's best intersts: Al-Qadhdhafi has his eyes as much on Algeria as on Sudan. He has proposed union to the leaderships of both. Last month, the Algerian leadership was to have put to referendum a blueprint for unity with Libya.

So support for the people and Government of Algeria is compatible both with Egypt's national interests and wider pan-Arab interests. Let our judgment not be impaired by the fact that Algeria has failed to resume diplomatic ties with Egypt. Egyptian weaponry found its way to Iraq in its war with Iran even before Baghdad restored diplomatic relations with Cairo.

Rather than encumber it with the charge of rectifying its errors, journalism should be a beacon for the country's political leadership.

Paper Views U.S. Approach to Mideast Conference

NC1710071288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that any clear indication by U.S. President Ronald Reagan that he supports the idea of holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East will influence the new president of the United States, particularly if that man turns out to be the person Reagan has nominated to replace him in office.

The paper also comments on remarks by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to the effect that the United States cannot ignore the PLO. The paper says that the remarks constitute a clear recognition of the PLO's role and thus confirm a fact accepted not only by many world nations but also by a large segment of the Israeli population. The paper says that Murphy made it clear that a solution must be found for the Palestinian problem and that the Palestinians should participate in formulating this solution. Murphy also pointed to the deteriorating conditions in the occupied Arab territories.

The newspaper points out that during his meeting with the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in New York, the U.S. President stressed the Palestinian people's right to self determination and that the land which had been occupied by force must be restored to its owners.

The paper says that Reagan's view is shared by other world leaders, not just U.S. allies in western Europe. The paper notes the intensive efforts by influential international quarters to promote the international conference in the belief that it is the best forum for accomplishing the required task.

Libya

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 16 Oct

LD1610115088 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1139 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Oct (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1610182288 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, had talks this afternoon with the Libyan president [as heard] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. According to an authoritative Palestinian source, the talks dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian cause and the current situation in the occupied territories in light of the escalation of the Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising]. An authoritative Palestinian source reported that brother leader Abu 'Ammar described for the Libyan president the atmosphere surrounding the discussions and preparations, underway for the convening of the emergency PNC meeting at the end of this month.

Leaves Libya

LD1710084588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Oct (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli yesterday evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Ben Ali

LD1610172188 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution sent a congratulatory message to the President of the Republic

of Sisterly Tunisia Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of the eviction of the last French soldier from the land of Arab Tunisia. Text is as follows:

Dear Brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali,

We congratulate ourselves of the anniversary of this glorious day which led to the purge of our Tunisian Arab land from the French colonial desecration and we stand solemnly saluting the martyrs of Benzerte whom the Arab people in Tunisia produced as sacred sacrifice on the butchery for the freedom of Arab land. The martyrs who generously sacrificed their pure lives without any hesitation in an unequal but necessary battle.

I was personally denied the honour of volunteering to fight in the battle of Benzerte with my brother militants in Tunisia when I was a student at the secondary school and the defunct regime refused to enable me to fulfill my duty with my brothers in Tunisia. The massacre of Benzerte stained the history of French colonialism with ever lasting disgrace and drew a page in the glorious history of our nation written in the blood of the dearest and most daring men amongst the Tunisian Arab people.

Your brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Iranian Official Lauds 'Courageous' Stances

LD1610183688 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Sadeq Khalkhali, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Iranian Consultative Council [title as received], saluted the courageous stances of the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Khalkhali expressed, during his reception of the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Tehran, his appreciation for the prominent role played by the leader of the revolution towards the victory of the revolution in Iran and the downfall of late shah. He asserted that the speeches of the leader of the revolution and his instigation for revolution played a major role in fueling enthusiasm to the leaders of the Iranian Revolution which contributed towards the victory of the Revolution and the downfall of the late Shah.

He pointed out that American imperialism is hostile to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and its leader for the pioneering revolutionary stances played by this great revolution in defence of the cause of freedom. Also Khalkhali saluted the fraternal ties between Tunisia and Great Jamahiriyah and the resumption of relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Chad. He asserted that the initiative of the leader of the Revolution to solve the Chadian problem is a courageous step to cut off the road before imperialism and colonialism.

Cooperation Agreement With Mali Signed

LD1610165388 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] [Dateline as received]—A proces verbal for cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Mali was signed yesterday in Tripoli. The proces verbal, signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury and the minister of finance and commerce in the Republic of Mali, stipulates for the consolidation of cooperation between the two countries in the scientific, technical, cultural fields and foreign investments. Present at the signing ceremony were the secretary of the Brotherhood Bureau to Mali and the Malian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Prime Minister Discusses Mediation Efforts

EA1410232288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that some southern forces which have been silent for a long time are now moving toward crystallizing a unified opinion with regard to the issue of peace and war in the south. In a long interview with AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH newspaper, his excellency said the rebel movement has pawned its decision to others. He proved this by citing John Garang's numerous retreats from appointed times for meeting and considering negotiations and peace. His excellency said that in the course of a year, three attempts at mediation to bring him and John Garang together had taken place. [passage omitted]

Commenting on President Museveni's mediation, Al-Sadiq said that the Ugandan president conveyed to John Garang (?his) agreement to a meeting in Kampala. October 25th was proposed as a date for the meeting. However, what was reported by the rebel's radio about this meeting indicates a repetition of the retreats in a manner to which John Garang has become accustomed.

Comments on 'Preconditions'

EA1410101388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] [Passage indistinct] As a rebel Garang has to be limitlessly fought because he is an aggressor backed by foreign powers but if he asks for talks for peace or if anybody mediates for a just settlement, then we have no objection whatever Sadiq said.

Sadiq argued that since Garang could not separate the south nor occupy the whole Sudan, then he has to sit for peace talks and spare the life and blood of other Sudanese, said Al-Mahdi. We do not put forward preconditions for peace talks although we know Garang is being moved by other quarters.

Al-Mahdi said Sudan has evidence that Kenya is assisting the rebels and that it has to be cautious because of its fragile system if Sudan were to retaliate. He said Sudan has many times told Kenyan Government not to assist the rebels nor give them any kind of aid.

The [word indistinct] whose house is of glass will not throw stones at other peoples houses, he said.

Foreign Minister on Hopes for Talks With Rebels

EA1410231688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih has declared that the government is striving for a peaceful dialogue with the rebels, pointing out the sabotage acts being carried out by the [rebel] movement in wrecking development projects in the south and imposing famine on its population.

He explained Ethiopia's support for the rebel movement which promoted Garang not to respond to the peace negotiations.

This came in an interview conducted with him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper.

Dr Abu Salih said that Sudan is striving to establish good-neighborly relations with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, and other countries. He described relations with Egypt as distinctive.

About conditions in Lebanon, the minister said that Sudan has called for an urgent meeting of foreign ministers in the hope of reaching a solution to the Lebanese problem.

Garang Demands Supplies Via East Africa

EA1610151788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Rebel Colonel John Garang has rejected the Red Cross undertaking to transport relief supplies to the south from inside Sudan. He has demanded that transport of relief supplies be effected from East Africa, saying he believed that the Sudanese Government might poison the food items transported to the south.

Border Security Agreement Signed With Chad

LD1401232588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 14 (SUNA)—Sudan and Chad have agreed on developing neighbourhood relations and solving problems concerning the common borders security as a visiting delegation met with Chadian opposition leaders.

The agreement, signed here yesterday on the eve of a visit by Chadian delegation, stressed on respecting neighbourhood links, non-interference on each other, affairs, halting anti propaganda in addition to abandoning all that could lead to destabilization of ties and pave the way for foreign interference.

The two sides also focused on the importance of creating the apparatus that could achieve these tasks and which would be designed as a ministerial committee and other sub-committees suitable form for the future cooperation was also reached along with an eleven-point agreement five of these points were agreed upon during a visit to Chad last month by Sudanese delegation headed by Dr. Hussein Sulayman Abu Salih, foreign affairs minister. [sentence as received]

The agreement was signed yesterday by Ali Ahmed Sahlool, under-secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry and Idris Hassan Dubai, head of the Chadian delegation in the joint talks. On the signing ceremony, the two sides expressed their countries commitment to fulfil the agenda of the agreement in order to open a new page in bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the Chadian delegation has met with three of Chadian opposition figures in Al-Fashir, western Sudan, a statement issued here said.

A number of viewpoints have been exchanged with the leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Council, according to the statement of the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum.

The delegation, due to his desire has not been able to reach [Acheikh] Ibn Oumar forces, the statement added. It did not elaborate on whether the delegation, which left for Al-Fashir last Tuesday, had reached an agreement with these leaders concerning Ibn Oumar forces.

Party Leader on State of Libyan Union Talks

NC1510163588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, has said that the government's decision to form a delegation to continue the dialogue on union with Libya has not been agreed on by all parties and that such a decision is not the government's prerogative.

In a statement published here today by the Sudanese paper AL-ADWA', Al-Mirghani said that forming the government delegation to continue the dialogue with Libya violates the Charter of Accord among the various political parties. He added that the Charter of Accord has defined the particulars of relationships with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Libya.

Al-Mirghani said that these relationships must first be discussed and agreed on by the parties. The government's role follows the parties' agreement. This has not happened so far and for the delegation, whose formation has reportedly been completed, to continue the dialogue is not legal and does not express the spirit of the accord. Therefore, the parties' leaders are not bound by it. Al-Mirghani added that he has discussed this issue with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Oil Ministers Issue Press Statement

LD1610231488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2226 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh 16 Oct (SPA)—The GCC member states have reaffirmed their commitment to stabilize the international oil market provided that this is the intention of the other oil-producing states inside and outside OPEC.

In a press statement issued tonight at the end of the 13th meeting of the GCC permanent Ministerial Committee for Petroleum Cooperation, held today at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh under the chairmanship of His Excellency Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, the Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral resources and acting planning minister, the GCC member states reaffirmed that they are prepared to adhere to the production levels agreed upon within the framework of OPEC. This includes a production ceiling of 17,429,000 barrels per day for all the 13 OPEC member states, or any higher ceiling which may be agreed upon within the OPEC framework according to correct technical definitions for calculating the quantities, provided that any surplus is distributed among the OPEC members according to the same production proportions in the basic 17,429,000 barrels per day and on the condition that the rest of the OPEC member states abide by that.

The press statement—read by Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, the assistant secretary general of the GCC for economic affairs—pointed out that the GCC member states who are members of OPEC will communicate this to the rest of the OPEC member states. The statement also pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman has been charged with contacting the oil-producing states outside OPEC to inform them of this decision in order to realize the cooperation to which we aspire.

PDRY

'Arafat: PNC To Discuss 4 'Crucial Options'

EA1510165888 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The militant brother, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief the Palestinian revolution, has affirmed that a session of the Palestinian National Council [PNC], to be held at the end of this month, will examine four crucial options connected with the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and the Middle East situation.

Among these options are a request for international protection of the occupied Palestinian territories—which requires the approval of the permanent members of the Security Council—and the proclamation of a Palestinian state or provisional government. 'Arafat made this statement to a reporter of Aden News Agency as he was leaving Aden International Airport this evening after participating in the Yemeni people's celebrations of the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the party's establishment. 'Arafat pointed out that the fundamental principle which will [word indistinct] (?the destiny) of the Palestinian people in this session is the principle of approving freedom, independence, struggle, and jihad for raising the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem.

On the uprising in the occupied territories, as it enters its 11th month, 'Arafat affirmed that it will continue in wave after wave until the termination of the Israeli occupation and the raising of the Palestinian flag over liberated Jerusalem. He was seen off at the airport by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee.

Foreign Officials Attend Anniversary Celebrations

Ethiopia's Mengistu Participates

EA1610095788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], this evening met Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary-general of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] and president of the PDRE, who is visiting our country to participate in our people's celebrations of the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the setting up of the YSP, at his residence. Bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways of strengthening them, as well as issues of common interest, were discussed during the meeting.

The brother secretary general expressed our party's appreciation of the level of relations existing between the friendly parties and peoples and stressed the importance of developing and strengthening them in the future. He pointed to the importance of reinforcing the struggle for making the Red Sea region a zone of security and peace free from foreign military fleets. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his gratification at his participation in our people's celebrations. He offered hearty congratulations to the leadership of our party and our people on these two occasions. He also highly appreciated the level of the relationship that binds the two parties and peoples along the road of progress and peace.

Iraqi Minister Arrives

JN1510104488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Aden, 15 Oct (INA)—PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas received here today Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah, who is on a visit to Aden to participate in the celebrations on the anniversary of the revolution and the YSP. Hamzah conveyed the greetings and wishes of President Saddam Husayn on the PDRY celebrations on the 25th

anniversary of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the YSP. He wished the fraternal Yemeni people every pride and progress and bilateral relations development in the interest of the two fraternal peoples and states and the Arab nation.

President al-'Attas affirmed his country's concern to develop bilateral relations in all areas and continue the exchange of visits to implement bilateral agreements and expand cooperation. Al-'Attas praised Iraq's peaceful efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace in the region.

GDR Delegation Attends

LD1510225188 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1238 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Aden (ADN)—The PDRY and the GDR share the view that a regular exchange of political views is conducive to maintaining peace. This statement was made during talks between 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and the GDR state and party delegation led by Werner Walde, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, in Aden on Saturday. The GDR delegation is in the PDRY for the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution and the 10th anniversary of the founding of the YSP.

The two sides referred to the long-standing traditions in their relations of friendship and cooperation between the GDR and the PDRY, which extends to nearly all spheres of political, economic, and social life. They expressed the certainty that the shaping of their wide-ranging bilateral relations would receive fresh impetus.

USSR's Talyzin Attends

EA1610153088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abd-allah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; and Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals; this afternoon met Comrade Nikolay Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and leaders of the Soviet delegation participating in our country's celebrations for the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the setting up of the party. Aspects of economic and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries in light of the treaty of friendship and cooperation were discussed during the meeting. The two sides expressed their gratification at the progress of implementing projects being set up in Democratic Yemen in cooperation with the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Libyan Delegation Arrives

EA1610154388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Summary from poor reception] A Libyan delegation, led by Ali Muhammad al-Shairi, secretary of Peoples Mobilization [title as heard], arrived in Aden this evening on a visit to Democratic Yemen that will last several days. Following his arrival, Al-Shairi made a statement to ANA explaining that during his visit, on behalf of the people's congresses, peoples committees, the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, he will take part in the Democratic Yemeni peoples celebrations.

Yemen Arab Republic

President on Development, Unity, Algeria Riots

JN1610100088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has affirmed that local councils have supported the development march and brought about positive gains with state support that represents over 90 percent of the councils's revenues—rendering these councils as government agencies, receiving more state support than any ministry that renders services to the citizens. This came in an interview held with the newspaper AL-MAJALIS, mouthpiece of the local councils for cooperative development. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on the joint investments between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland, the brother president said: We have joint projects, one of them is in the oil sphere. However, we do not have any intentions to establish new projects at this phase, as we are struggling to attain a more sublime and greater objective; namely, that of realizing Yemeni unity. Hence, we have strategic unionist plans for the unified Yemeni state. We believe that the continued launching of joint ventures and projects will be an obstacle hindering the approach of the day of unity to which the masses of our people aspire. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on how we view current developments in Algeria, the brother president said in his press interview: What is being witnessed by fraternal Algeria is the product of an imperialist-Zionist conspiracy motivated by the pan-Arab stands taken by fraternal Algeria, as this country is hosting the meetings of Palestinian leaders and the PNC session. Besides, this country hosted the extraordinary Arab summit which has been recently held in Algiers to support the revolution of stone-throwers. He added that this is part of the Zionist-imperialist conspiracy against Algeria.

'Arafat Arrives 14 Oct, Makes Statement

JN1410210088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1958 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Sanaa, 14 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit to the YAR lasting several days, during which he will meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and senior YAR officials. In an arrival statement carried by Sanaa radio, 'Arafat said that he will brief the YAR president and YAR officials on the latest developments pertaining to the Palestine question, and especially on the dialogue recently held by the Palestinian leaders and the forthcoming PNC session.

'Arafat indicated that his visit to Sanaa comes at a time when the popular uprising is witnessing an increasing escalation in the occupied territories and also when there is an increase in the barbaric and criminal acts being perpetrated by the Zionist army and the armed Zionist settlers against the Palestinian people.

'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian people are determined to continue the uprising until the Zionist occupation is dismantled.

Meets President, Departs

JN1610081288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office yesterday evening brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

During the meeting, they discussed developments of the Palestine question, the recent developments in both the Arab and international arenas, and the militant relations binding the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] briefed his brother the secretary general on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena in light of the continued escalation of the valiant popular revolt against the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories and the continued perpetration of acts of oppression, terrorism, and barbarism by the Zionist authorities against unarmed Palestinians in a failed and desperate bid to abort the valiant popular revolt. 'Arafat affirmed that these fascist and brutal practices will not deter the Palestinian people from continuing their legitimate struggle until their inalienable objectives of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital, are attained.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also briefed his brother the secretary general on the Palestinian nationalist choices that will be crystalized in the forthcoming PNC session. The brother secretary general affirmed that the circumstances of the Palestinian Arab people living under the yoke of the Zionist occupation stress the need to see the international community take measures to deter the Zionist entity, provide international guarantees to protect the Palestinian people, and support them in order to advance the efforts and endeavors which accelerate the convening of the international Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and the UN Security Council permanent members. The conference must be attended by all parties, including the PLO, which must attend the conference on equal footing so that a durable and just solution to the Palestine question based on the guarantee of realizing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people can be found.

The brother secretary general affirmed our country's principled and firm stand in support of the Palestinian revolution and voiced our country's readiness to provide all forms of support for the Palestinian Arab people so that they can continue their legitimate struggle and achieve their national objectives of attaining self-determination and establishing their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat left Sanaa last night following a 2-day visit to our country.

Council Gives Government Vote of Confidence

JN1610152288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Consultative Council held an extraordinary meeting at 1100 today under Brother Judge 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, the council's speaker and Standing Committee member. The brothers prime minister and ministers attended the meeting.

The audience listened to the Consultative Council's reply to the government policy statement. After reading the repiy, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, stressed the government's commitment to implementing all the contents of its policy statement presented to the Consultative Council. He also affirmed the government's adherence to the remarks made by the Consulaltive Council in reply to the government policy statement. The government will also consider the council's reply a complementary part of the policy statement and is eager to emphasize this in light of the Constitution, the National Charter, the third 5-year development plan, and the resolutions passed by the General People's Congress.

Afterward, the Consultative Council's speaker called on the members to give a vote of confidence. The Consultative Council unanimously gave the government a vote of confidence. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Lists Government Appointments

WA1610130788 [Editorial Report]

The 17 August 1988 issue of the Ta'izz Arabic daily AL-JUMHURIYAH on pages 1 and 2 reported the following 41 governmental appointments made effective on 16 August 1988:

Governors

Governor of the Province of Sanaa: Muhammad Hasan Dammaj
Governor of the Province of Ibb: Col Salih 'Abbad al-Khulani
Governor of the Province of Ma'rib: Gen 'Abdallah Naji Daris
Governor of the Province of Dhamar: Lt Col Dirham 'Abduh Nu'man
(Selected by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Office of the Prime Minister

Director: Muhammad Sa'id Zafir

Ministry of Development

Deputy Minister: Dr Muthir 'Abdallah al-Sa'idi (Selected for appointment by Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the minister of development and president of the Central Planning Agency, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Legal Affairs and Affairs of the Consultative Council

Deputy Minister: 'Abdallah 'Awad Ahmad (Selected for appointment by Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, the minister of legal affairs and the affairs of the Consultative Council, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Deputy Minister: Eng Muhammad Muhammad al-Tayyib (Selected for appointment by Eng 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, the minister of public works and transport, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance

Deputy Minister: Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hajari (Selected for appointment by Judge 'Ali Ibn-'Ali al-Samman, the minister of awqaf and guidance, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Justice

Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Council and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cassation: Judge Muhammad Isma'il al-Hajji
Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cassation: Judge Muhammad Ahmad al-Jarrafi
Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cassation: Judge Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Wazir
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice: Ahmad Salih Farhan
Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice: Muhammad Muhammad al-Duraybi
General Deputy: Col 'Ali Muhammad al-Yana'i

Scholarly Committee for the Codification of the Principles of Islamic Law

President: Judge Muhammad Ahmad al-Jarrafi
Members:
'Abd-al-Qadir Ibn-'Abdallah
Muhammad Muhammad al-Muta'
Husayn 'Ali al-Hubayshi
Muhammad Muhammad al-Mansur
Muhammad Isma'il al-Rabi'
'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Samawi
Muhammad Muhammad al-Shami
Sa'id Muhsin Nashir
'Abd-al-Malik Mansur
'Abd-al-Salam Khalid
Muhammad Isma'il al-Ni'ami
Muslih al-Sa'idi
Muhammad Qasim al-Wajih
Hammud 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Hattar
Muhammad Qasim al-Shami
Husayn al-Mahdi
(Selected for appointment by Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, minister of justice, and approved by the Supreme Judicial Council)

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Undersecretary:'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad al-Akwa' (Selected for appointment by Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabbab, minister of youth and sports, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

President of the Council for the Administration of the Bank for Agricultural Cooperative Loans: 'Abdallah al-Burkani (Selected for appointment by Dr Nasir 'Abdallah al-'Awlaqi, minister of agriculture and fisheries, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Assistant Undersecretary: Sharaf Salih al-Sa'idi (Selected for appointment by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Ministry of Municipalities and Housing

Undersecretary: Eng Muhammad al-Ashwal (Selected for appointment by Eng Muhsin 'Ali al-Hamdani, the minister of municipalities and housing, and approved by the Council of Ministers)

Central Agency for Oversight and Accounting

President: 'Abd-al-Malik Mansur

Office for the Eradication of Legal Injustices

President: Judge Muhammad Lutf al-Sabahi
Members:
Judge Muhammad al-Rabi'
Judge Ahmad Muda'is
Judge 'Ali Ahmad al-Khirabi

President Chairs Joint Meeting, Discusses Economy
JN1510201688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] President Saddam Husayn this evening chaired a joint meeting for the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. During the meeting, the RCC and the [regional] command dealt with two fields: political and economic. In the political field, the RCC and the command stressed that all Iraqis affiliated to the party, both inside and outside Iraq, must strictly adhere to Iraq's stated policy, which is approved by the leadership, of no intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, particularly Arab ones, except for those countries that intervene in Iraq's domestic affairs. They also stressed that state organs and their employees, both inside and outside Iraq, must adhere to the same policy.

In the economic field, the RCC and the command discussed part of the political and economic conditions, particularly the sudden and swift drop in oil prices and its consequences on the economic situation. In particular, the RCC and the command discussed the steep rise in the price of some basic foodstuffs. The rise was not due to acceptable economic reasons, such as the rise of production costs and so forth, but was due to exploitation by some exploiting and harmful producers or by those who play a parasitical role in production and marketing. The RCC and the command reached a number of well defined instructions in this regard, which will be followed up.

Djibouti's Jouled Arrives, Meets President
JN1610164788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Djibouti President Hassan Jouled arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

The guest president was accorded an official ceremony, with President Saddam Husayn at the head of those receiving him. Also receiving him were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, the RCC members, the head of the president's office, the ministers, and the president's secretary.

After a short rest at the airport's VIP lounge and an exchange of cordial talk, the leader president accompanied his guest, the president of Djibouti, in an official procession to his place of residence.

President Jouled is accompanied by a delegation comprising Moumin Bahdon, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Isma'il Omar, director of the president's office and member of the political bureau of the ruling Popular Rally for Progress; Musa Buraleh, minister of commerce, transport, and tourism; and Ahmed Ibrahim Abdi, minister of labor.

President Saddam Husayn and his guest Djibouti President Hassan Jouled held a round of talks on the strong fraternal relations between the two countries and developments on the Arab scene. At the beginning of the talks, the Djibouti president congratulated the president in the name of the government and the fraternal Djibouti people on the splended victory scored by the zealous Iraqi people on the eastern gate of the Arab homeland.

The two presidents evaluated the outcome of the first ICO information ministers' conference and its resolutions, which strengthened solidarity among the Muslim countries and highlighted the inclination of the media toward correct Islamic practices and away from forgery and procrastination.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the secretary of the president.

On the Djibouti side, the talks were attended by Moumin Bahdon, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Isma'il Omar, director of the president's office and member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Djibouti Popular Rally for Progress.

President Jouled and his delegation left Baghdad this afternoon after a short visit. The guest president was seen off in an official ceremony, with President Saddam Husayn at the top of those seeing him off. Also seeing the Djibouti president off were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, the RCC members, head of the president's office, the ministers, and the secretary of the president.

Delegation Returns From Hungary; Minutes Signed
JN1510094288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad early this morning after a visit of several days to Hungary. The Iraqi minister signed, during the visit, the minutes of the 11th session of the Joint Iraqi-Hungarian Committee for Trade, Economic, and Scientific Cooperation held in Budapest recently. The minutes call for developing and expanding cooperation between the two countries in the trade and economic fields and exchanging scientific experience.

The Iraqi delegation comprises the under secretary of the Finance Ministry and representatives of the Trade, Industry, Military Industrialization, Planning, Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Finance Ministries in addition to the Iraqi Central Bank.

Oil Minister Returns From Indonesia, Malaysia

JN1710110088 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 17, INA—Iraqi Minister of Oil Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim returned here today concluding a week-long visit to Indonesia and Malaysia. The minister told INA that, during his visit, he held talks with officials in both countries on the situation in the oil markets and preparations for the meetings due to be held by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member states on prices and cooperation among the OPEC and non-OPEC countries.

He also said that he discussed exchanging expertise in the field of oil industry between Iraq and both of Indonesia and Malaysia and signed two trade agreements for goods exchange with them. Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim had held talks with the Arab Gulf countries oil ministers within the framework of a tour he had recently made during which he discussed oil prices and oil market stability.

Norwegian Defense Minister Arrives 16 Oct

JN1610150788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst arrived here this afternoon heading a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Norwegian defense minister said that his visit to Iraq is to enable him to get acquainted with the situation of the Norwegian forces operating within the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group. He added that the visit was also prompted by a desire to hold talks with Iraqi officials on the current negotiations between Iraq and Iran on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

The Norwegian minister was received at the airport by 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, and a number of military officials.

Front Denounces Al-Asad's 'Treacherous' Acts

JN1510200588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1753 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi National and Pan-Arab Progressive Front has called on all Arab parties, forces, and popular and professional organizations to denounce the crimes of the slave of the charlatans, Hafiz al-Asad, and to boycott and expel him from the Arab League and from all Arab organizations and authorities. In a statement issued here today, the front called on all honorable Arabs to confront the Syrian regime, which proved, in words and deeds, its shameful alliance with the Arab nation's enemies. It denounced Hafiz al-Asad's clear conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab nation. It also stressed the need to create objective conditions for the Lebanese people to practice their constitutional right to elect a president according to democratic and legal traditions without outside intervention.

The front referred to Hafiz al-Asad's treacherous stands and his evil alliances with the racist Iranian enemy in its bloody war against Iraq. It also referred to his despicable crimes against the Palestinian people in Tall al-Za'tar [refugee camp in Beirut], his facilitation of the Zionist enemy's invasion of Lebanon, his siege of the Palestinian revolution troops in Beirut, and his providing favorable conditions for the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The front asserted that for the slave of the charlatans, the division of Arab ranks represents the only guarantee for of his bloody regime's continued deception and blackmail of the Arab masses. The price for all these crimes against the Arab nation was paid to Al-Asad in the form of deals.

It said that the Syrian regime was not content with giving up Syrian territory, destroying Hamah, and threating the Syrian people's life and future through its approval of the deal to bury nuclear waste in Syrian territory in return for huge sums. It also divided Arab ranks and allied itself with our Arab masses' historical enemies—foremost of which are the Zionist and Iranian racist enemies—thus expressing his strategic alliance with them.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Syrian Role in Lebanon

JN1610105788 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 16, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-THAWRAH called on the Lebanese Arab people to unite strongly to protect their sovereignty against the Zionist-American-Syrian scheme which aims at dividing Lebanon.

In a commentary here today the paper said that Hafiz al-Asad, the slave of imposters, is required at present by the U.S. and the Zionist entity after his failure to impose a president on Lebanon, to escalate the security and political tension in the Lebanese arena as a step on the road of political and geographical partition of Lebanon.

It said that Hafiz al-Asad rule in Lebanon is a twin for the Zionist rule. The slave of imposters' role harmonizes with the agreement which he signed with the U.S. Administration at the consent and blessing of the Zionists.

The daily added that the Syrian-U.S. agreement aims finally to damage Lebanon to enable Syria to take territories in the north in compensation for the Golan which he lost and he will leave southern Lebanon for the Zionist enemy to act there freely.

Shamir Warns Palestinians Against Firearms Use

TA1710064888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night warned that if Arabs in the territories start using firearms against IDF soldiers and Jewish residents in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, not a remnant will be left of them. This will undoubtedly put an end to the intifada [uprising].

In an elections rally in Sederot, Shamir referred to a statement made by Hani al-Hasan, an adviser to 'Arafat, who this week claimed that if the Likud wins the elections, an instruction would be issued to the residents of the territories to use firearms in the intifada.

"We have heard that the great adviser to the great assassin, Hani al-Hasan, told the people of Israel: if you vote for Shamir we will start using firearms in the intifada. To this I say: Is he dictating to us who to vote for? The PLO men, who spend their time in luxurious hotels, do not mind sending the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to fight against the IDF and our security forces with stones and bottles. Then, when this does not help, they tell the Palestinians to go and fight with weapons," said Shamir. "There will be nothing left of those who want to murder us," Shamir declared. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Security Forces Will Use Guns Against Guns

TA1710103088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok, 'Eran Taus, Pinhas 'Inbari, 'Ezra Aviran, and correspondent in the valleys region]

[Excerpt] If the Arabs in the territories take to firearms, the security forces will reply with firearms, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday in the Cabinet meeting. Answering a question from one of the ministers, defense establishment officials present at the meeting noted that the conversion to the use of firearms would make life easier on the IDF because it would then be employing guns against guns. The IDF is well trained in operations against terrorists, they said.

Minister Rabin remarked that, as opposed to some reports that appeared in the press, there has not been an increase in the use of firearms by Arabs in the territories. The fear exists, however, that if pressured, extreme elements might adopt the use of firearms, said Rabin. [passage omitted]

Shomron on Arms, IDF Policies in Territories

TA1610053188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The chief of staff, Dam Shomron, says there has been a certain increase in the use of arms in the territories, but this should not be regarded as an escalation of the situation. Talking to reporters last night, the chief of staff said it was possible that in the future the use of arms will be viewed by residents of the territories as the only way to maintain the uprising. General Shomron also felt that the fact that the PLO appeared to be close to making political decisions was spurring elements opposed to this into taking up arms.

Asked about the initiatives taken by the IDF in the territories, the chief of staff said these were focusing on trouble spots along major routes. It was the IDF's policy, he said, to enter any village organizing for opposition.

Peres Pledges To Call International Conference

TA1710093488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] In a significant foreign-policy statement which appeared to be aimed at King Husayn, Foreign Minister Peres yesterday pledged his commitment to the principles of his April 1987 "London Agreement" with the Jordanian monarch.

"The first thing I will do as prime minister will be to go back to that initiative and call upon the U.S., Jordan and the Palestinians to convene—as soon as possible—an international conference that will facilitate direct negotiations," Peres said.

The two-and-a-half page statement, which he read out to the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem, had been meticulously worded by Peres himself during the weekend.

"I am convinced that King Husayn is serious in his desire for peace," Peres said. "Neither he nor we have an alternative. Otherwise we shall destroy our economies and the future of our children.

Peres said that if the sides reach agreement, "Then the (UN) secretary-general will issue invitations to the five permanent members of the Security Council and the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict in order to negotiate a peaceful settlement based on Resolutions 242 and 338."

The objectives of the move, Peres stated, would be to bring "a comprehensive peace to the area and security to its states, and to respond to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Peres's statement was notable for its omissions. The foreign minister did not raise the possibility of separate Palestinian representation at peace talks, as he has several times in recent weeks; did not emphasize the non-coercive nature of the proposed conference; and made no mention of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace plan. But later, in response to a question, Peres did use the terms "non-imposing" and "opening ceremony" to describe the functions of the conference.

In the written statement, Peres stressed: "I have been—and am—in favour of a peace settlement, based on what we call territorial compromise, call 'territory for peace'. I say it clearly on the eve of our elections."

If the Likud had not rejected the peace efforts, Peres said, "I think we could already have been at the negotiating table, and may have been saved the riots in the West Bank and Gaza."

In response to other questions, Peres spoke out against the disconnection between Jordan and the West Bank. "Can you make the Jordan River a cutting knife?" Peres asked. The Jordanian-Palestinian option is "reality—not a Labour Party invention."

He declined to say whether he still insists that the Soviet Union and China establish diplomatic relations with Israel prior to the convening of the international conference. But, he added, "We expect them to do so. They will do it on their own."

Peres said he expected China to be more forthcoming" [no opening quote marks as published] in its attitude toward Israel in the near future, and dismissed reports that recent leaks about developing Sino-Israeli relations had caused damage. "My impression," Peres said, "is that China will continue to exist despite the leaks, some of which were sheer speculation."

Ceausescu Asked To Mediate With PLO Leaders

JN1610101588 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Oct 88 p 1, 23

[Text] Bucharest - Tunis — Romanian Foreign Ministry sources revealed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent an urgent written message to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu asking him to mediate with the PLO leaders and urge them not to interfere in the Israeli election campaign for the benefit of the Labor Party. According to the Romanian sources, Shamir said in his message to Ceausescu that Yasir 'Arafat and his friends in the PLO were wagering on a losing and failing party since the majority of Israeli opinion polls indicate that the popularity of this party has diminished and that it will not be able to win in the next Knesset elections. In his message, Shamir adds that the Likud Party is the stronger and the only one capable of breaking the stalemate hovering over the peace process in the region. Therefore, the next Israeli government under his leadership will be able to push the peace process toward a settlement with the Palestinians.

In his message, Shamir said the commitments which Shim'on Peres and his friends promised the Palestinians in the event of them coming to power in Israel cannot be fulfilled for two important reasons. The first reason is that Peres will not win and will merely be transferred from his party into the opposition camp upon losing the next elections. The second reason is that the Labor Party leaders have taken no initiatives toward the peace process in the region during the past 40 years. As he said in his message, if the Likud has managed to sign peace treaties with major Arab countries such as Egypt, then it will also be able to reach a political settlement with the Palestinians. News reports mentioned earlier that intense secret contacts were being held between the PLO and the Labor Party, where the latter was hoping to secure the Arab votes in the next Knesset elections through the intervention of the PLO for their benefit. Official sources said that Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, delivered the message to Ceausescu.

Palestinian sources in Tunis affirmed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the PLO will ask the Palestinians of territories occupied in 1948, who have the right to vote in Israeli elections, to support the Labor Party under the leadership of Peres and to vote for him. The sources said, however, that the Palestinian policy on this issue is general and the Palestinians will be asked to support the parties which fulfill the following conditions:

1. Support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and recognize their right to self-determination.

2. Support the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and be willing to negotiate with them.

3. Support the idea of the international conference.

The Palestinian sources in Tunis said the PLO leadership currently meeting in Tunis is awaiting the results of the Israeli elections before holding the PNC session.

HADASH Outlines Political Platform

TA1410122288 Tel Aviv HA'IR in Hebrew 14 Oct 88 p 8

["HADASH Platform"—advertisement headline]

[Text]

Two Nations—Two Countries, One Peace!

1. A peace agreement will be signed between Israel and the Palestinian state that will be set up alongside it. The 4 June 1967 borders will constitute the recognized and

secure peace borders between Israel and its neighbors. To reach a peace agreement, Israel, the PLO, the neighboring Arab states, and the superpowers will meet at an international conference convoked by the United Nations. The superpowers and the United Nations will provide guarantees for the peace and security of Israel and its neighbors.

An Honorable Way To Make A Living and Respect for the Breadwinner

2. HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] demands larger health, education, housing, culture, and sports budgets at the expense of a substantial cut in financial allocations for defense and the settlements. HADASH demands jobs for the unemployed, larger national insurance allowances, and free high school education for every girl and boy. HADASH demands that the tax onus on the wealthy be increased, thereby providing the means to increase the health budget.

Jewish Brotherhood, Arab Brotherhood, Jewish-Arab Brotherhood

3. HADASH has been working to foster friendship and understanding between Jews and Arabs through the educational system, radio, and television. HADASH demands that all forms of discrimination against the Arabs, who are citizens of Israel, be abolished.

We Are All Here

4. HADASH is fighting for equality for Jews from Middle Eastern countries in every area: The slum neighborhoods should be eradicated by providing inexpensive rental apartments to young couples and the needy. The oriental Jews' cultural heritage should be nurtured.

Democracy Is Not Just A Word. It Should Be Protected

5. HADASH demands the legislation of a democratic and secular constitution for Israel. HADASH will take action for the passing and implementation of an antiracism law. HADASH fights for the honoring of human rights and for freedom of conscience, freedom of the press, and the separation of church and state.

Woman Is Not the Nigger of the World

6. HADASH demands that all laws discriminating against women be revoked. HADASH fights for the implementation and expansion of the laws guaranteeing equal opportunity for women in jobs and salaries. HADASH works to secure the woman's right to terminate her pregnancy in accordance with her own decision, and to legislate laws that would legalize civilian marriages and divorces.

New Party Advocates Electoral Reform, Tax Cuts

TA1610075788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by Jon 'Imanu'el]

[Text] Among the new parties running for the Knesset next month, few are genuinely new. But Koah Hashaqet (The Silent Force) is genuinely new, with original ideas. The name Shaqet is an acronym derived from shalva, qidum, tohar (serenity, progress, purity). It claims support from mainly middle-class Israelis who do not vote because none of the parties attracts them.

Party leader Ya'aqov Gross, an advertising executive and film lecturer, is offering the voters a list of only 81 candidates, because the party wants Knesset membership reduced by a third and government ministries cut down to save the taxpayers money. It also oposes income tax. It wants electoral reform, and if it wins only one seat it will rotate it among its candidates every three weeks. The party also protests against the government's inability to prevent emigration and wants day-care centres made available to all working mothers for a small fee.

Koah Shaqet plans to exploit Knesset regulations to demonstrate their absurdity. For instance, the oldest member of the Knesset, says Gross, is automatically entitled to be the acting speaker until a speaker is chosen, and to swear in the new Knesset. He is also acting president of the state until a new speaker is chosen, meaning that if the president becaomes incapacitated during this period, RAKAH's long-serving Arab legislator Tawfiq Tubi could become head of state. To forestall such an event, Koah Hashaqet has placed a 99-year-old at the top of its list.

'Expert' Says Alignment's Arab Support Declining

TA1710104788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Text] The Alignment is extremely concerned about recent internal polls which indicate that it may lose up to 1.5 Knesset seats in the elections among Arab voters, party sources said yesterday.

According to a party Arab affairs expert, who declined to be identified, taken together with "Yahad" ('Ezer Weizman's former party that united with the Alignment) the Alignment will lose up to half of the three seats given the party by Arab voters in the last elections.

The expert says the major reason for the Alignment's loss of support in the Arab sector is Na'if Masali, a Moslem from Kafr Qari', who is holding the 35th spot on the Alignment's list and who also serves as the head of party's Arab campaign staff. Masali, the expert says, is resented by many potential voters of the Alignment to the point that they prefer to vote for other parties because of his placement in the Alignment list. "We found out in the last three weeks," the expert said, "that Masali is well-liked by Jews in our party, and that many Israeli Arabs resent him because of that."

But Labour Campaign chairman 'Ezer Weizman last night sharply denied the expert's assertions, telling THE JERUSALEM POST, "It's a big lie. I will not respond to rumours. We are optimistic about the Arab sector, and if someone among us is spreading malicious rumours, he can go jump in a lake."

Other experts on Arab affairs do not dispute Labour's expected loss of votes among Arabs, but believe that other factors are influencing Arab voting trends, such as Defence Minister Rabin's handling of the intifada [uprising] and the fact that the Alignment does not control many of the ministries which are capable of bettering the lot of the Arabs.

Two weeks before the elections, the Alignment expert continued, it is clear that the party is about to suffer a major defeat in the Arab sector as a result of the decision to put Masali as the leading Israeli Arab figure in this elections. Unlike previous elections, he added, the Alignment's influence is not being felt in the Arab sector. The party's activity in that sector is not what it should have been and it's a pity because it could have gained between 3 to 4 seats in the Arab sector, he said.

It is time for the Labour party to realize the "disaster" that is about to occur in the coming elections, the expert continued, and urgently change its tactics there. The expert estimated that the entire Israeli Arab votes would constitute between 11 and 12 Knesset seats. According to polls that were held in the last few weeks, he said, the votes will be divided as follows: Democratic Front for Peace and Equality—HADASH—5 Progressive List for Peace—2 Alignment—1.5 Arab Democratic Party (former Labour MK [Knesset Member] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah—1 MAPAM and Center-Shinuy—1 Citizens Rights Movement—0.75/1 Likud-NRP [National Religious Party]—1

Darawshah's party, the expert said, may even gain two seats if the Moslem fundamentalist groups openly call their supporters to vote for him. He added that the only chance for the Labour party to gain more support in the Arab sector is to put "a much more attractive Israeli-Arab figure" to head its campaign, like the head of Baqa al-Gharbiyya's local council, Samir Darwish.

Shamir on Contacts With Ethiopia on Emigration

TA1610064188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says that Israel is in contact with the Ethiopian Government in an effort to renew the emigration of Jews from that country. Speaking in Hadera at a meeting with immigrants from Ethiopia, the premier said Israel is trying to renew aliyah [emigration of Jews to Israel] from the East African country in whatever way possible. But he said it was not easy to get a commitment from the Addis Ababa government, and even when this was forthcoming, it was not always implemented.

No Confirmation of Sinking of Vessels Off Lebanon

TA1610105888 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Oct 88 p 8

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Excerpts] The IDF Navy's ships sunk three vessels together with the terrorists aboard. This was reported on Friday by REUTER. According to the report, the incident took place in the vicinity of the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp near Sur. The Navy, which patrols the area regularly, encountered three terrorist vessels. The vessels were sunk in the ensuing fight. There are no reports concerning the fate of the terrorists aboard. Military sources in Israel have not confirmed the report. According to IDF sources, the Navy's activity along the Lebanese coast is aimed at preventing terrorists from infiltrating Israel from the sea; at foiling terrorists' attempts to set up camps on the coast and in Lebanese ports; and at stopping the sea transfer of weapons, commanders, and men into Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Navy exerts all efforts to positively identify all vessels, even at ranges from which terrorists might act. The Navy, however, is not taking chances.

Arab 'Extremists' Threatening 'Moderate' Activists

TA1510083088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Arab extremists in the Galilee and the Triangle have recently launched intimidation campaigns against activists and public figures who are considered moderate, threatening to harm them if they continue to maintain contacts with the authorities. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that these threats were delivered in writing, over the telephone, and in supposedly friendly conversations. Molotov cocktails were twice thrown at the home of one such activist near 'Afula, slightly damaging property. Officials handling the Arab sector regard the new phenomenon with extreme gravity. They cannot take action though because the public figures are refraining from filing complaints with the police.

'Several' HADASH Activists Questioned

TA1510102988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Several HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] activists in the Galilee have been detained or questioned by the police on their involvement in the activities of the popular committees. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that all the key HADASH figures in the village of Kabul near 'Akko are among those who underwent questioning or were detained.

The Galilee District police reported that over the last few days, 15 Arab citizens were detained or questioned. The detentions were conducted in view of the dissemination of a subversive manifesto calling for action to be taken against collaborators with the authorities and for a greater show of solidarity with the uprising in the territories and its goals.

4 Arabs Detained for Attempted Murder in Galilee

TA1710060888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Four youths from the village of Majd al-Kurum in the Galilee have been arrested for attempted murder. The arrests came after a Tiv'on resident complained to police that figs she bought from the youths on the 'Akko-Zefat highway were full of pieces of glass. Two of the young men confessed that they hid the glass in the figs in order to kill Jews. All four confessed to throwing stones recently at an Israeli car in which the female driver was injured.[passage omitted]

2 Said Killed Without Provocation; IDF Denies

TA1710110088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct pp 1, 4

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] The families of the two youths who were killed in the Yattah village in the Hebron area a week ago claim that the shooting by the IDF, or other members of the security forces, was carried out at a range of several meters, after the youths were identified as being wanted by the IDF. It did not happen during a demonstration or a stone-throwing incident, but instead it was during a gathering of youths in the midst of a general strike day.

The IDF denies these allegations and stipulates that according to an investigation carried out in the area, the shooting took place only after the soldiers were in mortal danger. A detailed investigation of the deaths was conducted in a routine manner by the Military Police. [passage omitted]

The IDF was carrying out special activities in many villages that morning. The village of Yattah was not one of them. The report of the families of Kamal Muhammad Hasan al-Dhari (23) and Fadl Ibrahim Shihadi Najjar (25) is based on the testimony of several eye witnesses. [passage omitted]

According to the residents of the village, no stone-throwing took place, and the soldiers, who were in an army vehicle, were not in any danger. According to the residents, both youths were shot because they had been wanted for some time. One of them had even served a 25-day prison term approximately a year and a half ago. [passage omitted]

In response, it has been reported by the IDF spokesman that in the Yattah incident an IDF unit was attacked by several dozens of youths. A situation occurred when the soldiers found themselves in mortal danger. They opened fire that resulted in the killing of the youths. The IDF confirms that one of those killed was wanted by the security forces. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

3 Wounded in Nabulus

TA1410134188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Three youths were wounded during a riot in the Nabulus casbah this morning. The lifting of the 6-day curfew in Nabulus was immediately followed by repeated stone-throwing incidents.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that today the IDF operated in various villages in the territories, where it reimposed order. A youth was reportedly wounded by IDF fire in Kafr Malik, near Ramallah. Another injury was reported in the Al-Shati' refugee camp near Gaza.

A general strike, initiated by the Unified Command of the Uprising and by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, was observed in the territories today.

1 Dead, 1 Wounded in 'Clashes'

TA1410172388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] A 22-year-old resident of Kafr Malik, near Ramallah, was killed today during a clash between stone throwers and the IDF. This was learned by our correspondent Arye Gus from Arab sources. According to the sources, the man's body was removed from the hospital and buried.

Early this evening, a 15-year-old from the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah was wounded by a plastic bullet during clashes between stone throwers and the security forces.

A border policeman was injured by a stone hurled as a curfew was being imposed on the Al-Burayj refugee camp.

Stones were also thrown tonight at a private vehicle driving near the village of Abu Ghaush, along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, shattering one of its windows. There were no injuries. This was reported by our correspondent Yosi Qoren.

2 Policemen Hurt in Jerusalem

TA1410184288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] At the village of 'Isawiyah in East Jerusalem, a policeman and a border policeman were lightly injured a short while ago during disturbances by local youths. The police broke up the demonstrations with tear gas.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown in the (Al-Sa'adiyah) neighborhood of Jerusalem's Old City. No one was hurt.

20 Arrested in Janin Raid

TA1510053488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The Valleys District police, Border Police units, and IDF soldiers raided three Arab villages in the vicinity of Janin, near Mt Gilboa', last night. They detained 20 people on suspicion of starting a long series of forest fires, putting up roadblocks, and flying the PLO flag inside Israeli territory.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the policemen, the soldiers, and the border policemen, under the command of Assistant Commander Dani Tabib, the commander of the Valleys District police, raided Jalbun, 'Arabbunah, and Fuqu', encircled the suspects' houses, and detained them. They encountered no opposition, and no one was hurt during the operation. Two minors are also among the detainees.

Our correspondent points out that several arson cases have been recorded on Mt Gilboa'. Tens of thousands of trees were destroyed. Roadblocks had been put up and PLO flags were flown on the road to the Mt Gilboa' nature reserve. In some cases, the suspects have also been involved in disturbances.

Explosives Found in Janin Sweep

TA1510124488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] A large quantity of explosives and other materials used for terrorist activities were discovered last night during a sweep of three villages in the Janin region. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the Valleys District police, together with IDF and Border Police units, raided the villages of Jalbun, 'Arabbunah, and Fuqu' and detained 20 people suspected of perpetrating hostile acts within the Green Line boundaries. The suspects are charged with setting forest fires, putting up roadblocks, flying PLO flags, and participating in disturbances.

The explosives, timers, remote control cables, and batteries were intended for the production of bombs to have been used by the 20 suspects.

Attacks in Janin Noted

TA1510122288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] An 'Afula resident was attacked with an ax and stabbed with a knife in Janin this morning. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the 56-year-old man came to Janin on business. The assailants snatched his licensed gun from him. He was rushed to the 'Afula hospital suffering serious cuts in the head, neck, and back. He is being treated in surgery. The security forces have closed all the access roads to Janin and have launched a combing operation to capture the assailants.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an Israeli Arab couple was stoned during a visit to Janin this morning.

7 Arabs Wounded by Army Fire

TA1510145088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Oct 88

[text] Five Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria were injured by IDF fire today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an army unit was attacked during an operation involving policing, searches, and the restoration of order in the Samarian village of Qaffin. The soldiers opened fire, wounding three residents.

Another injury was reported in the Tulkarm refugee camp, and yet another in the Nabulus casbah.

[Tel Aviv IDF radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 15 October adds: "Two youths from Rafah were wounded by plastic bullets this morning as the IDF dispersed about 100 stone throwers gathered on Rafah's Derekh Hashalom Street. A 14-year-old sustained a slight injury in his left leg and an 18-year-old was wounded in his right leg. Both were taken to Al-Nasir hospital in Khan Yunus. Otherwise, quiet was maintained throughout the Gaza Strip."]

Olive Picking Ban Due to Riots

TA1610084388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The Military Administration has banned the residents of the village of Burqa' in Samaria from picking olives from their groves. The ban is due to their involvement in disturbances and riots. As part of the same policy, the village gas station has been closed down for 6 months.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Judaea and Samaria residents dread the possibility that the administration would limit olive oil production and exports because this would lead to the accumulation of large surpluses.

W. Bank Youth Dies of Wounds

TA1610143488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Usamah Shalabi, an 18-year-old youth from the village of 'Attil near Tulkarm, died this morning in a Jerusalem hospital of wounds sustained early last week from IDF fire directed at rioters in his village.

3 Injured in Gaza Strip

TA1610201088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Three people were wounded in the Gaza Strip today: two youths and a boy. In the Al-Shati' refugee camp, a 16-year-old was hit this afternoon by a plastic bullet fired by IDF troops who were dispersing a riot in the camp. The youth was taken to Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza.

A 12-year-old boy from Khan Yunus and a 14-year-old from Rafah were wounded by rubber bullets as the security forces dispersed stone throwers. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that although the two wounded youths were moved from the site by their families, they were not brought to any hospital.

A victim of stone throwers was slightly injured in East Jerusalem, as Egged bus No 23, which was driving near Wadi al-Jawz, was pelted with stones. One of the bus windows was shattered and a passenger was grazed by flying glass splinters.

A short while ago, a stone was hurled from the Shu'fat neighborhood in Jerusalem at bus No 25 as it was passing through Hagiv'a Hazorfatit junction. One of its windows was shattered, but no one was hurt.

Further on Weekend Unrest

TA1610100788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Oct 88 p 7

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, and Fa'iz 'Abbas]

[Excerpts] One man was killed last Friday, and another died of wounds sustained last week. This past weekend 10 residents of the West Bank were wounded. Yesterday three IDF soldiers were slightly wounded in the Gaza Strip. Five residents of the Gaza Strip were wounded over the weekend.

This past weekend the IDF initiated dozens of operations in Arab villages. The operations reached their peak on Friday during a general strike in the West Bank commemorating the Qibya village massacre. Military sources reported that an IDF unit was attacked in Kafr Malik in the Ramallah District as it was about to leave the village. Two men were wounded by the shooting that took place there.

Arab sources, on the other hand, claim that 18-year-old 'Umar 'Asi Barat was killed in the incident, while two others were wounded. According to military sources this death could not be confirmed. Another resident died on Friday of wounds sustained the week before during a demonstration. The deceased, Ya'qub Mustafa, was a resident of the Qibya village. [passage omitted]

According to Arab sources, three men were wounded yesterday in Bethlehem. One of them is a resident of the (Al-Gaza) refugee camp. A curfew was imposed on the (Al-Gaza) refugee camp on Friday afternoon. Military sources report that the curfew was imposed after an incident in which stones were thrown at an Israeli bus. [passage omitted]

Three IDF soldiers were slightly wounded in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Two of the soldiers were wounded in the Al-Nasir neighborhood in Gaza when demonstrators threw stones at an IDF patrol. One of the soldiers sustained head wounds while the other was wounded in the shoulder. They were treated on the spot. In the Al-Burayj refugee camp a border policeman's hand was broken by a stone thrown at him. [passage omitted]

'Murderer' Captured Near Janin

TA1710104588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Security forces captured the person who murdered a resident of Ya'bad near Janin and reconstructed the murder, our correspondent Arye Gus reports. The murderer is an inhabitant of Umm al-Fahm. The murdered man was expelled from his village by members of the Al-Shabibah who suspected him of collaborating with Israel. Over a week ago he was shot in the head from close range while sitting in an Umm al-Fahm cafe.

Agricultural Exports to Lebanon Double

TA1610135888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Agricultural exports to Lebanon doubled during the 10 months between October 1987 and June 1988, reaching $3.4 million. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balselboim reports that Israel mainly exports eggs, bananas, and potatoes to Lebanon. The Agriculture Ministry says that exports to Lebanon could be increased because of the large demand for Israeli produce, but the prices offered are too low.

Polio Patients Receive Experimental Treatment

TA1510190888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The polio patients hospitalized at Hadera's Hilel Yafe Hospital are receiving experimental treatment with Alpha-Interferon. Interferon is a substance produced naturally by the body to counteract viruses, while the interferon given externally is genetically engineered.

The director of the hospital's neurological unit, Professor Refa'el Karaso, told the Voice of Israel reporter that following the treatment, the polio patients reported a slight improvement, but he stressed it is not clear whether the improvement is due to the treatment, or the natural regression of the virus. Professor Karaso said Health Ministry approval was given for the use of interferon only at the initial stages of the disease, when the virus is still active, since once the damage is done the interferon has no effect.

Iraqi Chief of Staff Meets With Army Chief

JN1510204188 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, had talks at his office in Amman today with the Iraqi Army's chief of staff, General Nizar 'Abd al-Karim. The Jordanian Army Chief of the General Staff, General Fathi Abu Talib, and the Iraqi military attache in Amman were present. The talks at the meeting focused on aspects of joint cooperation.

Gen Abu Talib met separately with the visiting Iraqi Army chief of staff and briefed him on the history of the Jordanian Armed Forces. In the morning, Gen 'Abd al-Karim visited the martyr's monument.

The Iraqi chief of staff arrived in Amman earlier this morning for an official visit to Jordan. He was greeted at the airport by Gen Abu Talib and senior military officers.

Sees King Husayn

JN1610164188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Iraqi Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Nizar 'Abd al-Karim Faysal at Al-Nadwah Palace today. Faysal conveyed to his majesty President Saddam Husayn's greetings and good wishes for continuing the march in the interests of Jordan and the entire Arab nation. Attending the meeting were the court minister, his majesty's private chamberlain, the chief of staff, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Al-Masri: 'No New Development' in PLO Ties

JN1510085688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 88 p 1

[by Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir Al-Masri said Friday that there was no new development in relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) since the last meeting between the two sides where PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas headed the PLO delegation.

The meeting dealt with issues related to the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Supporting the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People Living in the Occupied Territories, Al-Masri told the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y in an exclusive statement. The minister noted that His Majesty King Husayn has voiced acceptance of whatever the PLO decides in the context of a declaration of an independent Palestinian state. Al-Masri said the basis for a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East remains an international conference under United Nations auspices and that the PLO was seeking to crystallise a new American position on the issue.

"An international conference is the basis for a peace settlement, Al-Masri said. "However, the absence of final positions of the two major parties—the PLO and Israel—diminishes prospects of convening it in the near future."

Recent statements by PLO officials and ongoing consultations and contacts are aimed at realising a new American position which could surmount the Israeli rejection of the idea of an international peace conference, Al-Masri said.

The minister said he expects the Palestine National Council (PNC) to convene one day before the Israeli general elections scheduled for Nov. 1. "I do not have any specific information on the exact date for the PNC meeting," Al-Masri said. "But judging from what Palestinian circles have been saying, it is possible that the PNC could be convened on Oct. 31," he added.

Qatanani Explains Disengagement 'in a Nutshell'

JN1710070088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 88 p 2

[By Ghadir al-Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Jordan, while remaining firmly committed to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and to playing a key role in efforts for just and comprehenisve peace in the Middle East, is steadily pursuing implementation of measures designed to reinforce the Palestinian identity of the Israeli-occupied territories in the wake of the Kingdom's decision to sever formal ties with the West Bank.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the newly-created Department of Palestinian Affairs—formerly the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs—explains the entire process in a nutshell: "Jordan remains committed to supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories (and) to an active role in the process that will eventually, we hope, lead to a comprehensive peace. So, under these two titles, we still continue to operate in the occupied territories..."

While the department's activities essentially "remain the same that were taking place" before Jordan's July 31 announcement of severence of formal links with the West Bank, "it is now in a fully new direction to give the disengagement its meaning..." according to Qatanani.

In a wide-ranging one-hour interview with the JORDAN TIMES earlier this week, Qatanani spoke at length about the functions of the department, which is now part of the Foreign Ministry, since July 31 and emphasised that these were all part of the ongoing process of "translating the disengagement into practice."

Qatanani reaffirmed the government's keen interest in upgrading the services offered to and the living conditions of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons living

in the East Bank. "The disengagement measure has changed nothing with regard to the refugees and displaced persons living here in Jordan," he said.

Jordan spends about $12 million every year on the camps in addition to continued coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and donor countries on matters related to services offered to the camps, Qatanani said. "We help (the camp residents) establish certain projects that will make life easier for the people," he said. "We establish electricity networks, water projects, clinics, schools, roads and so on... the kind of infrastructure that will provide services needed by the people in the camps."

Recalling a visit last month by Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani to several camps in Amman and his promise to upgrade services offered to them, Qatanani said: "Some camps have come very near to cities (in proximity). As a matter of fact, they have come within the city-limits. The government has been all along interested in seeing that the people who live in the camps get services that will allow them to have a decent living and that there is not a great gap between the people in the camps and outside the camps in the surrounding areas."

"It is particularly so," he said, "in areas where the camps are very near to the cities." With the government's own $12 million budget and working closely with UNRWA and donor countries, "we are trying to improve these services as much as we can," he said. But, he stressed, "this will not change the (status) of the camps, but will improve the services. This is what we have been doing and will continue to do so." According to UNRWA statistics, the number of refugees and displaced persons living in the camps is about 250,000. But Qatanani said this could vary to up to 300,000 since "there are people who moved in and out in terms of renting or leasing."

Asked what the drawing line was between "refugees" and "displaced persons," Qatanani said: "Refugees are those who left the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1948 and these are registered with UNRWA as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, in Gaza. Displaced persons are those who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the 1967 war. Jordan erected six emergency camps in the East Bank for displaced persons but some of the displaced persons actually came from the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "So they are both refugees and displaced persons... like people from 'Ayn al-Sultan in Jericho or Jalazun near Ramallah moving to Baq'ah camp near Amman," Qatanani said.

However, there are no distinctions between "refugees" and "displaced persons" when it comes to their civil status in Jordan. "The displaced persons and refugees in the West Bank and the East Bank have been treated as Jordanians since 1950, and there was no difference," Qatanani said. "The only difference came after (Jordan's legal and administrative) disengagement (from the West Bank). Now, those who live in the West Bank get temporary two-years passports while those in the East bank get regular five-year passports. The people who came from Gaza were different in the sense that they started getting temporary passports only recently. A resolution was passed in 1985 allowing them to get temporary passports. The disengagement measure has made the Gazans as well as the West Bankers eligible for temporary two-year passports."

The two-year passports are not different from the regular ones except for the validity period, Qatanani noted. The difference, he said, "is simply because the disengagement makes the people of the occupied territories Palestinian as of the day of the disengagement." Continued issuance of passports is only one of many facilities that Jordan continues to extend to the Palestinian people despite the break with the West Bank. "We still welcome people from the occupied territories," Qatanani said. "They can visit (the East Bank and stay for one month. Those who need to stay more than one month—for education, medical treatment or humanitarian reasons—are allowed to stay on as their needs warrant."

Outlining further the work of the department, the director-general said: "We continue to issue the necessary documents for people in the occupied territories ... death, birth and marriage certificates, land deeds, school certificates etc. We help them whenever possible ... We still admit students from the occupied territories into our schools, colleges and universities. In effect, in many aspects, (the department's) activities remain pretty much the same... but with regard to the issue itself, the disengagement was intended to start with the pronouncement of the Palestinian identity and clarifying the matter of represention."

Jordan continues to import agricultural and industrial products from the West Bank and extend them free access to the Jordanian market, Qatanani noted. This helps the people in the occupied territories in addition to meeting local demands, he said. The new element in the process, he pointed out, is the involvement of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Supply, Finance and Customs, the Ministry of Agriculture and various other departments, organisations and institutions that are concerned with the import of products to decide on what kind of procedures are to be followed.

Qatanani said Jordan welcomes a recent Israeli consent to allow direct Palestinian exports to European markets. "We have always been trying, all along, to push this kind of (step)... We have been advising the people in the cooperative unions in the occupied territories to try hard for such an agreement..."

He noted that the European Economic Community (EEC) had withheld approval of three protocols with Israel because of the Zionist state's resistance to direct Palestinian exports to the EEC. The protocols were

approved earlier this week after Israel undertook to allow direct access to EEC markets by Palestinian producers from the West Bank and Gaza.

Replying to a question, Qatanani said the authorities were strictly enforcing Jordan's ban on entry of any product with Israeli input, whether labour or material-wise. The authorities are in coordination with cooperative societies and unions in the West Bank and the benevolent society in Gaza to ensure the ban is not violated in essence, every product that enters the East Bank from the other side of the river has to be accompanied by a certificate of origin issued by any of these societies or unions as the case may be. Qatanani noted that origins were relatively easy to trace in the case of agricultural products—the bulk of Palestinian exports to the East Bank. "They are planted in Palestinian lands by Palestinian farmers and are easy to trace," he said. But in the case of industrial products the inspection process is different. "When the final product has any Israeli input, we reject it," he said. "It will not be admitted." The regulations are strictly followed, he said, to the extent that a Palestinian product packed in Israeli material will not be allowed into Jordan.

The main agricultural products that enter the East Bank from the West Bank are citrus, fruits, vegetables, water melons, olives and olive oil. The industrial product category includes stones, woodwork, soap and meat products. The department did not have specific figures on the actual value of imports from the occupied territories but in tonnage they amounted to 69,635 tonnes from the West Bank and 61,603 tonnes from the Gaza Strip in 1987. These products enjoy free access to the Jordanian market and are treated at par with the Kingdom's produce, Qatanani said.

In reply to a question on a recent measure concerning trucks entering from the West Bank, Qatanani said: "These trucks were Jordanian and now they are Palestinian. So their owners will have to change their licences into a temporary one (while entering Jordan). Again, the idea is part of translating the disengagement into practice." He estimated that there were over 300 such vehicles, which carried Jordanian licences since 1967 and operated in the occupied territories with Israeli places, as imposed on them by the occupation authorities. Whenever they crossed into the East Bank, they used the Jordanian plates until the new decision, announced earlier this month.

Replying to another question on what has been described as a "new good-conduct certificate" that West Bank drivers have to obtain before obtaining such temporary licences as well as driving licenses, Qatanani said: "The drivers who were driving these trucks will have no problem to come to Jordan. The matter related to good conduct certificate is something we have been using for a long time. After all, we cannot admit anybody who is collaborating with the enemy, whether a driver, a lawyer or whoever."

Qatanani disclosed that a recent meeting was held at the Interior Ministry to "make clear the new procedures related to the disengagement to everybody concerned, every department." The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, Islamic Justice Department, the Department of Palestinian Affairs and the Passports Department. "The main aim was to see to it that the procedures are clear to everybody and to make things clear to the people (in the occupied territories) so that they know what documents to carry when they come the East Bank," Qatanani said. "The meeting also reviewed all the difficulties in the actual implementation of the procedures and how to sort out problems."

Qatanani also explained the issuance of cards to Palestinian entering Jordan. "If they are permanent residents of the West Bank, they will get a green card... which entitled them to get temporary two-year passports," he said. "Those who have their residence in the East Bank and have obtained family reunion documents—which means that they can reside permanently in the West Bank if they wish to—are issued yellow cards. (It) means that those carrying a green card are Palestinian. Those who carry yellow cards are Jordanian and nothing has changed for them with regard to the passport they get when they apply for it."

AL-ITTIHAD Cited on French Initiative

JN1510080788 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0635 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAM)—AL-ITTIHAD today published the literal text of the French initiative on the presidential elections in Lebanon. The initiative comes within the framework of the ongoing regional and international efforts for this purpose. The initiative comes under the title "French Ideas For Securing the Presidential Elections in Lebanon". The initiative was handed to a number of political and religious leaders in Lebanon.

The initiative consists of two parts. The first part is on security and consists of four points; namely, the deployment of international forces, whose nationality is not defined, in the area of elections and the roads leading to the election venue; bringing in international elements to witness the withdrawal of militias from administrative Beirut; using UN vehicles to move the deputies to the election venue at their own request; and the presence of international representatives inside the election hall to supervise the elections and to witness that the elections are fair.

The second part of the initiative, which is political, stipulates that discussions will be held between East and West Beirut and among the various political and parliamentary personalities on electing four or five candidates. An agreement will then be reached on one or two candidates. In accordance with this agreement, a date will be set for the Chamber of Deputies' session. The discussion on the names of the candidates will take place in agreement with the Syrian capital.

French Ambassador's Car Involved in Accident

NC1410193288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The French ambassador's car crashed into another privately owned vehicle in Al-Hazimiyah [in East Beirut] this evening causing a fire in the latter car. There have been no reports on any casualties. It is not known whether the ambassador was in his car when the accident occurred.

Council Assails Remarks by McCarthy, Murphy

NC1410150488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Higher Council of the National Liberal Party met today and reviewed the political conditions in the country and the current efforts exerted in more than one direction to elect a president of the Republic and extract the country from the abnormal situation which is threatening its unity. The council reviewed the recent meeting of Christian deputies at the Maronite Patriarchate. The goal of this meeting was to arrive at a reconciliatory solution while maintaining the deputies' complete freedom in selecting the new president and while rejecting any candidate who is imposed by foreign agreements which ignore the national will and sovereignty.

The council voiced concern that efforts made in good faith may fail and this way in turn terminate the hopes for rescuing the country by democratic means. Various pressures are still in force to impose agreements made abroad and rejected at home, the council noted.

The council expressed its astonishment at the activities of U.S. envoy John McCarthy and his visits to certain departments and officials to discuss purely internal affairs. The council also voiced surprise over certain malicious remarks made by the U.S. envoy as these remarks could lead to more confusion with regard to the nomination of candidates and deepen the existing divisions.

The council also reviewed the depositions of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy before the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. In his remarks, the council decided, Murphy has frequently distorted and twisted the facts. The council called on the Foreign Ministry to ask the U.S. Administration for an official explanation of the peculiar behavior of its envoys to Lebanon.

The council expressed satisfaction over the French initiative and found it of value in helping Lebanon surmount its crisis. The council also registered its satisfaction over the renewal of Soviet efforts, a development which the council found of positive value. The council called on friendly and sisterly nations to give their support to such efforts and to meet their obligations toward a sovereign country and a founding member of the United Nations and Arab League.

In another development, the Executive Committee of the Al-Tanzim Party held its weekly meeting under the lawyer George 'Adwan today. The committee expressed satisfaction over the increased world interest in the Lebanese crisis with the aim of preventing Syria from imposing its hegemony in the country and imposing its decisions on the Lebanese.

The Al-Tanzim Party's Executive Committee examined the statements made by Richard Murphy and noted that while the United States is a country whose existence is based on the principles of freedom and democracy, some U.S. officials sometimes act inconsistently with these principles. The committee decided that the United States' simultaneous dealing with the legitimate government on one hand and the civilian administration in Al-Sana'i' on the other seems to bring a partitioning closer to reality. This situation can only be corrected by dealing exclusively with the sole legitimate government in the country, that of Michel 'Awn. [passage omitted]

Sham'un Condemns 'Meddling'

NC1410193888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] After meeting with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu al-Lam', today, Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, stated that the meeting concerned U.S. envoy John McCarthy's meddling in Lebanese affairs. He described McCarthy's meeting with the governor of the Bank of Lebanon at the latter's office as flagrant interference in private Lebanese affairs.

Sham'un added: We are not in an American state, nor are we under American orders, and no envoy or diplomatic person in Lebanon has the right to visit employees at their place of work. Such persons should deal only with the Lebanese state.

Birri Questions U.S. Intent To Implement Agreement

NC1410201988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] In an interview with the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, says the Americans ostensibly favor the Syrian-U.S. agreement, but are not prepared to exert pressure to implement it. He said that this is due to several reasons, in particular the Israeli factor.

Minister Birri reiterated his call for the need to achieve reconciliation before elections. He emphasized: We will not accept any candidate who has no program. [passage omitted]

Birri Discusses Arms Shipments, Reconciliation

NC1410173688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri, Amal movement leader, emphasized today that the Shi'ites in Lebanon have one united homeland: Lebanon in its entirety, with its sovereignty, justness, and Arab character, a Lebanon liberated from Israel and its agents. He said this in response to Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Karim Paqraduni's accusing the Shi'ites of establishing a Shi'ite state in Lebanon.

In an interview with UAE television and with the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, which also carried by AMAL magazine today, Birri expressed the belief that Lebanon is now experiencing an Israeli invasion more serious and momentous than that of 1982 because it is a political invasion under extensive Arab cover—a matter that is very serious.

Minister Birri revealed that the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army have received five shiploads of ammunition and weapons, including tanks, field guns, and thousands of tons of ammunition, as well as 155-mm guns. He said that these arms have upset the military balance. He expressed real fear of a military explosion, despite the fact that the military situation has not removed anybody from the map for the past 14 years.

Minister Birri said that if reconciliation were achieved, the identity of the president would no longer be important. He emphasized that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers have not embarked on any steps leading to partition but that the Al-Huss government is trying as much as possible to achieve reconciliation by political action.

He also revealed that he had proposed the formation of one government to embrace all the elements, including the hawks in the area, provided this government would meet continously for 1 or 2 months to achieve some kind of reconciliation, after which the Chamber of Deputies would elect a president and establish reconciliation.

Birri Willing To Meet Ja'ja' To Discuss Reforms

NC1510190188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Amal leader Nabih Birri has emphasized that military escalation will not be in any party's interest. He described the ideas of the Lebanese Forces on reforms as considerably better than traditional proposals have been. He expressed willingness to meet with Dr Samir Ja'ja' in Al-Qattarah if it is proved that Ja'ja' is opposed to the Israeli line.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-DIYAR, Birri reiterated his call to unify the government on the basis of reform and conciliation. He declared that he is opposed to sectarianism and does not want a Shi'ite president. Birri said he considers the Maronites the least hardline group in their adherence to Maronite political thinking, noting that this line of political thinking also has Shi'ite and Druze adherents.

Forces Adviser Examines Birri's Call to Meet

NC1610183388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Tawfiq Hindi, adviser to the Lebanese Forces commander, believes that former minister Nabih Birri's initiative [willingness to meet with Lebanese Forces Commander Ja'ja'] is positive and the first of its kind. He added, however, we would have hoped that, before calling on the Lebanese Forces to break off relations with Israel, he would have shown good will by breaking off his relations with the Israelis and Syria. We also are surprised that he did not raise another precondition; namely, to call for breaking off the relationship with Iraq. We wonder why this demand was not raised.

Meanwhile, we suspect that the mention of the issue of Israel is part of a Syrian-launched concentrated distortion campaign in Lebanon and in the Arab world which aims to show that the situation in the eastern area is the result of an Israeli partitionist plan. This campaign seeks

to stir up the Arab states against the liberated areas in Lebanon and to embarrass the friendly states such as Iraq, Egypt, and others by implying that these states support such suspect Israeli plans.

Hindi called on Birri and all the other Lebanese forces to unite the Lebanese rank under the slogan of the removal of all the occupying foreign forces from Lebanon.

Regarding federation, Hindi said that the Lebanese Forces are proposing this formula as an idea which they believe in but which they are not imposing on others. He added that they are prepared to discuss this and any other idea.

'Awn on Arms Imports, Stalemate Consequences

NC1410193088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] In an interview with London radio [not further identified], Prime Minister Michel 'Awn has emphasized that there is no justification for anyone's entering into war, as he put it, with us. He defined his position regarding the importation of arms to Lebanon by saying that a ban on imports must be preceded by an agreement or by the possibility of banning all the parties [from importing arms] simultaneously.

Gen 'Awn affirmed that a continuation of the current stalemate will not lead to renewed civil war but that there would be a general national war against the occupation forces. He said that this war would occur at a certain point and date.

Asked whether the Lebanese Army can resist a Syrian attack on the Christian sector in Lebanon, 'Awn said: We must not say the Christian sector, but rather the free areas, because these areas are not a refuge for the Christians alone but for every person in this country who wishes to be free.

'Awn Meets With Patriarch Sfayr, Comments

NC1410171988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Today, Patriarch Sfayr met with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, who described the visit as a courtesy call during which they discussed the current situation.

Asked to comment on Speaker al-Husayni's statement that he has become a stumbling block to holding the presidential elections, 'Awn said: I do not know why he thinks so. I hope he will explain this to me.

Regarding the current situation, 'Awn said: Nothing much has changed, because there has been no change in positions.

'Awn said the possible renewal of Speaker al-Husayni's term in office is up to the Chamber of Deputies, which is its own master.

Al-Rasi on 'Awn, Ja'ja Obstruction of Election

NC1610110788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has emphasized that General Michel 'Awn, head of the military clique, has become a principal stumbling block where the presidential election is concerned. He said that collusion between 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Ja'ja' continues to hinder the election of a president. Dr al-Rasi added: I stick to my view that there will be no session to elect a speaker on Tuesday, 18 October, because those in the eastern area intend to obstruct it. The freedom of deputies there has become captive to the militias' control and to the stands of 'Awn and Ja'ja'.

Dr al-Rasi went on to say that there are no security risks preventing the West Beirut deputies from reaching the parliamentary building in Al-Najmah Square. The knot does not lie in the location of the session. Al-Rasi asked: Where was 'Awn when the 18 August session was obstructed by a bomb explosion? He added: In the past, we had faith in the Lebanese Army to deter the militias and prevent any attempt to obstruct the exercise of democracy. However, this faith no longer exists. Al-Rasi said he expects that the 'Awn-Ja'ja' alliance will collapse soon, because it is built on fragile foundations.

AL-QABAS Interviews Communist Party's Hawi

JN1510192988 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Oct 88 p 10

[Interview with George Hawi, Communist Party secretary general, by Hasan Muhammad 'Abdallah in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abdallah] While Prime Minister Salim al-Huss receives ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions to explain why his government remains in power, General Michel 'Awn does the same and explains and analyzes the reasons behind the formation of his military government. We also note that you, too, are receiving ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions. This makes us pose the following question: Will you form a left-wing government in Lebanon?

[Hawi] No, we are not thinking about such a thing. Our contacts with the ambassadors is to affirm to them that the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss is the legitimate government and to expose to them the falsehood of the military coup former President Amin al-Jumayyil carried out. We do not have any intention of forming a left-wing government, or an entity of a left-wing nature in Lebanon. We believe that the present stage dictates the unity of all nationalist, progressive, and democratic forces eager to safeguard Lebanon's

unity, independence, and Arab affiliation, not to mention all other forces that agree to carry out reforms in the Lebanese system to restore Lebanon's unity. [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] Those who closely follow developments in Lebanon clearly notice that everything is deteriorating, starting with the regime and ending with institutions in all fields, not to mention the deterioration in the progressive and nationalist parties themselves, and here lies the dilemma?

[Hawi] The dilemma the regime is facing is comprehensive and deeply entrenched. The collapse of the regime means the collapse of all its institutions and political frameworks, including the sectarian frameworks, and the regimes' administrative, military, judicial, and political bodies.

But what we have said above does not apply to the revolutionary substitute. Although it has not succeeded, as yet, in imposing itself on the national level, the revolutionary substitute is not experiencing a state of collapse. This is demonstrated by the escalation of the Lebanese national resistance and the vanguard role secular progressive parties, including our Communist Party, play within the Lebanese resistance. This is in addition to the role the largely influential new parties such as the religious trends are playing. This is also confirmed by the ever-growing influence of the general democratic movement in the country, which rejects sectarian hegemony. All these uphold the ideas and course of the left wing and the program of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, which was formulated by late martyr, Kamal Junblatt. [passage omitted]

This is the picture of the current state of affairs in Lebanon. The future will not be for the old ideas but for the new ones, which are experiencing difficult labor pains.

['Abdallah] Will these labor pains last for long?

[Hawi] Yes, they will last a long time because they are connected to the domestic crisis on all levels. They are also connected to the comprehensive pan-Arab struggle raging in the region. They are also linked to the fate of the Palestinian people and to that of the solutions that the United States, Israel, and the Arab reactionaries seek to impose. They are also linked to the atmosphere of international struggle, and it appears that the regional arena has been left to the Americans. It seems that the U.S. onslaught is not facing the required resistance from the region and on the international level. The United States acts alone in the Lebanese arena. This has made the Lebanese pay a prohibitive price for their insistence on blindly panting after the United States.

Therefore, there is a fault in the leverage the international forces have in the Lebanese and Arab arenas. The same applies to the Arab and domestic forces. All this makes the labor pains more arduous and difficult.

['Abdallah] Do we understand from this that you are criticizing the Soviet Union?

[Hawi] I said that the fault lies in the leverage international forces have in the Lebanese and Arab arenas. I did not say in the international arena. There is a fault or an imbalance in the region as there is almost no confrontation by the Soviet Union and the world progressive forces of the U.S. onslaught. There is no doubt that the Soviet Union shoulders responsibilities with respect to the priorities and issues it tackles. But we say that the primary responsibility must be shouldered by the Arab countries, particularly progressive countries. These forces are not seeking to win the Soviet Union's support to confront the United States. They are not seeking to benefit from the Soviet Union's weight.

['Abdallah] Do you believe that this is part of the reality of the division of zones of influence between the Soviet Union and the United States?

[Hawi] No.

['Abdallah] It seems that the Soviet Union has left the Middle East arena to the United States?

[Hawi] No, this is part of the Arabs' options, for which they will pay a prohibitive price.

['Abdallah] Are the Arabs responsible for the Soviet Union's retreat?

[Hawi] There is no doubt about this. The Arabs have placed their fate in the hands of the United States. However, this does not mean that the U.S. role will succeed. The U.S. failure in seeking a solution to the Middle East crisis is a sweeping one after it had promised to seek such a solution. The United States has led the region from one failure to another, and from one tragedy to another. The United States took it upon itself to seek a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Instead of seeking a solution, it partitioned Lebanon. This shows that U.S. policy is facing a dilemma, and this enhances the role of the forces that are hostile to the United States, whether in the Arab or the international arenas. [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] Do you believe that the United States has any interest in partitioning Lebanon?

[Hawi] It has partitioned Lebanon. A second Israel was created under the sight and hearing of the Arabs, and the world at large thanks to Israeli interference and U.S. policies. I accuse the United States and say that all its actions in Lebanon had been premeditated, not mistakes as the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon claims. The United

States is implementing a premeditated plan. The United States has been preventing the attainment of a political agreement in Lebanon over the past 3 years, that is since the tripartite agreement. It continued to procrastinate with respect to the negotiations, to raise obstacles, and to promise that it will agree to specific reforms until the presidential elections were due.

The United States then transferred its attention to the question of reaching an agreement on a president. The nationalist forces and Syria conceded to this out of their wish to extricate Lebanon from its crisis. The result was that the talks were suspended, and this made Sulayman Franjiyah announce that he will run for president so as not to leave the arena to a candidate whose presence in the presidency will be a cover for the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation and the militias' hegemony on the domestic front. [passage omitted]

I accuse the United States of having bad intentions because it exerted no efforts to convince the candidate in whose name it negotiated to accept the agreement that was signed in Damascus. The United States communicated this agreement to the Christian side in a provocative manner, showing that it despises them and what they represent, and dealing with them as if they were fifth-class employees in the U.S. Department of Defense. The Americans wanted the Maronite patriarch, who represents a community and a country, to implement Murphy's orders. They sought in a provocative manner to have all political key figures with whom we politically differ implement their orders. We believe that the United States acted in such a manner because it wanted these political figures to reject the Syrian-U.S. agreement.

Was it not possible for Murphy to spend another 24 hours in Lebanon? Does not Lebanon's unity and U.S. credibility deserve some sacrifices at this time? Was it not possible for Murphy to hold a dialogue with the other party and convince it that there is no other alternative but to reach this agreement and to explain the harm that will result from its rejection? [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] Do you have confirmed information that Gen 'Awn and Ja'ja' are carrying out military preparations?

[Hawi] This goes without saying and needs no proof. It suffices for us to follow the political and military activities of this party to ascertain that its next move will be military action. In their private circles, they say that they feel for the first time that they are independent. They say: Let us prepare ourselves and expand. This is how they view Lebanon's unity. [passage omitted]

Amal's Humayyid Rejects Palestinian Settlement

NC1510065188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Ayyub Humayyid, Amal Movement Executive Committee chairman and director general of the Information Ministry, has declared that the movement rejects the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon. He pointed out that the South is open to everyone who wishes to fight Israel, but through a joint operations room. He noted, however, that the firing of long-range missiles is no longer allowed.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange Gunfire in Al-Shiyah

NC1510193188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Amal and Hizballah have been exchanging machinegun and rocket fire in Al-Masbaghah street in Al-Shiyah [in Beirut's southern suburb] since 2130 today. The fighting has caused some fires.

Clashes Renew in Suburb

NC1510213588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah renewed violently in the southern suburb of Beirut some 20 minutes ago. RPG's and 106-mm weapons are being used in the fighting, which is taking place in several sections of Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah.

An Amal source said that the clashes broke out after Hizballah kidnapped eight Amal members and beat them so badly that two of them received treatment at the American University Hospital.

'Total Quiet' in Suburb

NC1610175188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Total quiet now prevails in all parts of the southern suburb. The Syrian Arab forces intensified their patrols and eliminated the causes of tension, which arose from last night's incidents between Amal and Hizballah elements in the Al-Ghubayrah area.

Amal sources attributed the cause of these incidents to kidnappings by Hizballah elements of some citizens, including individuals belonging to the Wahid and Zahwah families, in the areas of Harat Hurayk, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Al-Ghubayrah yesterday afternoon. Contacts consequently were held, as a result of which some of the kidnapped persons were set free. However, some were in poor health, and subsequently transferred to American University of Beirut Hospital.

Despite the contacts, which were held under the supervision of the Syrian Arab forces, Hizballah elements raided some houses, provoked some citizens, and kidnapped some of them. Amal sources added that this led to tension. These sources noted that Hizballah elements took positions on the roofs of high buildings, and opened sniper fire at various quarters and streets. This led to clashes in Al-Ghubayrah, Shhim Station, and some inner streets, which lasted until 2130, and resulted in some casualties.

After intensifying their patrols, the Syrian Arab forces managed to calm the situation. A meeting attended by officials from the two sides was held at the premises of the Syrian Arab forces detachment in the suburb. The meeting succeeded in bringing about the withdrawal of the gunmen and armed elements, and in restoring calm to the area.

Meanwhile, Hizballah sources attributed the clashes to the fact that amal elements searched an apartment occupied by Hizballah supporters, who, in turn, defended themselves.

Israelis Sink Dinghies Near Al-Rashidiyah

NC1410113988 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 14 (AFP)—The Israeli Navy set ablaze and sank three dinghies carrying Palestinian fighters off the coast of southern Lebanon on Thursday, regional security sources said Friday.

Two Israeli gunboats, backed by a helicopter, opened fire on the vessels after they were sighted near the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Rashidiyah, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Lebanon-Israel border.

The dinghies were carrying fighters trying to infiltrate northern Israel, the sources said.

The Israeli Navy said three guerrillas were shot dead September 24 after a patrol vessel intercepted a dinghy off the south Lebanon coast.

Israeli Planes Fly Over South-Central Area

NC1710070988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the South has reported that Israeli warplanes have been flying intensive sorties over the central sector areas [in southern Lebanon] and dropping thermal balloons since 0600 today. The reasons for these intensive overflights are not known, but security sources believe they are within the framework of military maneuvers.

Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1710080588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the Sidon area and its camps at approximately 0810 today.

Damascus Trying To Obtain Sukhoi Fighter Bombers
JN1510073588 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAM)—AL-ITTIHAD says that the U.S. Administration is currently holding contacts with the USSR to learn about the results of the Soviet-Syrian negotiations on the advanced Sukhoi fighter bomber which Syria is trying to obtain. Citing a high-ranking source in Washington, AL-ITTIHAD says the United States and Israel expressed concern over Syria's acquisition of these long-range fighter planes and the threat they constitute to Israel's airspace. Israel asked the U.S. Administration to move swiftly to find out whether Damascus has ratified an agreement to receive the sophisticated Soviet fighter planes.

Talas Addresses Air Force Anniversary Ceremony
JN1610161088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—Under the patronage of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, the Air Force and the Air Defense marked their 42d anniversary today. Representing the president at the ceremony was General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister.

The Air Force Command held a major ceremony at one of our air bases. Gen Mustafa Talas, sponsor of the ceremony, addressed the fighters. At the beginning of his speech, Gen Talas conveyed to the fighters President Hafiz al- Asad's congratulations on Air Force and Air Defense Day as well as his wishes of success in the national and pan-Arab tasks assigned to them. He said: The coincidence between the celebrations of the Air Force and Air Defense and our masses' celebrations on the 15th anniversary of the October war of liberation means full commitment to the spirit of October, a fulfilment of its high values and meanings, and a sure determination to continue the struggle until our objectives of victory and liberation are realized under the slogan raised by our struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad: Either martyrdom or victory.

Further on Talas Speech
JN1610172788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Damascus—Under the patronage of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, the Air Force and the Air Defense have marked their 42d anniversary. Representing the president in sponsoring the ceremony was General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Gen Talas asserted that Al-Asad's Syria, out of the constants of its pan-Arab principles, is continuing its preparedness on the path of realizing strategic parity with the Zionist enemy to face challenges and confront the conspiracy being concocted by imperialist and Zionist circles against the Arab nation. What is taking place in the Lebanese arena is a link in this conspiracy. This conspiracy has as its target the existence of Lebanon—land and people—to partition it and impose capitulation on it, he added.

Gen Talas discussed the series of conspiracies and treasons being implemented by the triad of submission—Saddam, 'Arafat, and the Camp David regime—in compliance with the orders of Washington and Tel Aviv and in conformity with capitulationist solutions. This aims to liquidate the Palestine question and abort the heroic Palestinian uprising, he added. Gen Talas asserted that the conspiracy will fail and that those who plot against their peoples will be punished because this is the logic of history. Lebanon will remain Arab forever and both mutual cooperation and the unlimited support [for Lebanon] will continue until Lebanon restores its wellbeing and liberates its southern area from Zionist occupation, he added. [passage omitted]

Officials Reportedly Involved in Waste Burial
JN1610173688 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Oct 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Sources very close to the Syrian leadership have disclosed that some senior Syrian officials are involved in burying nuclear waste in Syrian territory in return for commissions amounting to $40 million.

The sources explained that the sons of Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and some Syrian leaders allowed waste shipments on four Italian ships into the country via Tartus and Latakia ports. This waste was actually buried 5 meters underground.

Western security sources had earlier disclosed that former prime minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm opposed a deal that some senior political leaders had concluded with a West European country with the knowledge of the Syrian president himself. The sources hinted that the president was involved in the deal, which provides for burying industrial and nuclear waste east of Dayr al-Zawr in Syria in return for several millions of dollars to be deposited in banks in the names of the concerned officials. It also provides for the establishment of a special platform at Tartus port to receive the waste and transport it by train to Dayr al-Zawr. The deal failed and this was one of the reasons for sacking Al-Kasm later.

It is to be noted that the London-based Arabic language magazine AL-DUSTUR had disclosed that the Syrian ship "Zanoobia" unloaded its shipment of waste at Latakia port. During this procedure, the magazine added, one of the barrels fell in the water, severely injuring a number of workers. The Syrian authorities

tried to conceal this matter, which was circulating among the public, by hospitalizing these workers at the expense of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's sons and announcing at the same time that the ship was carrying a consignment of food materials that did not meet standards.

Informed sources added that the Syrian Samina [name as published] Company, which is backed by a number of top Syrian leaders, supervised the importation of the waste to Syria starting last December. The company coordinated with the Italian Joly Wax [name as published] Company, some officials of which have confirmed that a number of Syrian leaders, including Khaddam's sons, received sums amounting to $40 million in return for those operations, which have been going on for a long time.

The sources hinted that other operations to bury nuclear waste were carried out in the Lebanese mountains with assistance from Syrian officials. This is in addition to the declared discovery of some 25 barrels of waste on the Lebanese coast.

'Aziz Remarks on 'Awn Government Criticized

JN1410155488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz has justified the Baghdad regime's support for the partiton government in east Beirut by claiming eagerness to preserve Lebanon's independence, unity, and Arab affiliation. 'Aziz has not clarified how a government that cannot claim to represent anyone other than itself, that does not aspire to form more than one sectarian canton on a part of Lebanese territory, and that finds no party to support it among the Lebanese except a clique of those allied with Israel—one interested in nothing other than severing all Lebanon's ties with its Arabism and Arab identity—'Aziz has not pointed out how such a government can be a symbol of Lebanon's independence, unity, and Arabism.

Furthermore, he has not indicated how can a coup government that derives the components of its strength from strengthening ties with the Zionist enemy and its extensions in the Lebanese arena; that has demonstrated no reluctance in taking steps to fragment Lebanon and tear it apart under the guise of advocating suspect formulas of federation, confederation, and decentralization; and that has allowed an Israeli liaison office to maintain a presence on the territory under its own control—how can such a government in 'Aziz's eyes be the legitimate representative of the ambitions of the Lebanese regarding the building of a nationalist and unified Lebanon characterized by Arab affiliation?

Is it not logical to conclude that the Iraqi regime's support for such a government does not stem from this alleged eagerness to preserve the independence, unity, and Arabism of Lebanon? Nay, this support is motivated by a desire to encourage, back, and support the trends and schemes seeking to partition Lebanon and fragment it into sectarian cantons to pave the way for subjugating it to Israeli hegemony and obliterating its Arab identity. We are here referring to these trends and schemes, the spearhead of which is represented by the military coup government installed in East Beirut—the spearhead designed to carry out these trends and schemes.

The Iraqi regime knows quite well which is the legitimate government in Lebanon. Also, it knows the nationalist forces that have been defending the independence, unity, and Arabism of Lebanon. Moreover, this regime also knows that its enmity toward these forces and toward their patriotism and Arabism will not undermine these forces inasmuch as it will expose this very regime. However, this regime does not have a free will regarding the choice of its allies. Since it placed itself at the disposal of schemes hostile to the genuine pan-Arab trends in the Arab homeland and forged alliances with the regimes and forces linked to the Zionist enemy such as the Camp David Cairo regime and the 'Arafatist course in the Palestinian arena, this regime has been finding in the isolationist and partition-advocating forces allied to Israel its natural ally as well as the natural ally of its orientations.

Having dealt a cruel blow to the Arab nation by fabricating a marginal war with Iran in order to give precedence to such a secondary dispute over the Arabs' fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy and having dissipated and wasted much of the nation's resources in this fabricated dispute, this regime is now turning to the Lebanese arena to confront the nationalist forces that fought the Zionist invasion, forced its forces to withdraw, and made the multinational forces return defeated where they came from defeated.

These forces have stood and continue to stand firmly in their confrontation of the conspiracies seeking to fragment Lebanon and tear it away from its Arab affiliation. However, these nationalist Lebanese forces that have discovered since the beginning the subversive and conspiratorial role being played by the Iraqi regime against them and against Lebanon's Arabism and that have condemned and denounced this role still have the militant credentials and strong, effective weapons enabling them not only to abort the role of this regime but also to turn Lebanon into a graveyard that will rid the Arabs—all nationalist and honorable Arabs—of the evils and crimes being perpetrated by the Baghdad regime in the entire region.

Commentary Warns Against Partitioning Lebanon

JN1210160288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Time goes fast in Lebanon since the partitionists prevented the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies from carrying out its constitutional and national

duty to elect a new president for the Republic that has no president. With the passage of time since the post of the president was vacated—the post which is a symbol of Lebanon's unity and constitutional legitimacy—those who created the constitutional vacuum and obstructed the quorum in the Chamber of Deputies' session to elect a president believe that their partition plan is being implemented in practice and is gradually becoming a fait accompli to be imposed on the people.

They call for Lebanon's unity and, at the same time, partition it; they call for coexistence and, at the same time, entrench sectarianism and factionalism; they announce their adherence to legitimacy and, at the same time, seize the authorities of the legitimacy in the areas under their control; they call for the freedom of the deputies to elect a president for the republic and, at the same time, seize the freedom of the deputies and impose on them house arrest; they announce that the election of the president must be a Lebanese option and, at the same time, work practically to give this right to others in the name of internationalization, world support, and world detente; and they claim that they want to facilitate the choice among the candidates and, at the same time, reject every name that could be accepted by all Lebanese and could contribute positively to embarking on the national dialogue, achieving political reforms, and reaching a national reconciliation.

There is no explanation for what the partitionists are doing from the national Lebanese viewpoint or even from the angle of the interests of the faction which they claim they represent. This is because what they are doing will not serve the interests of any Lebanese faction regardless of its color or geographical position. What they are doing only serves the strategic objectives of the Zionist entity whose interests oppose Lebanon's existence, continuation, unity, and coexistence of its sons.

The partitionists depend in their acceptance of separatism on the support and backing of the enemy squatting in southern Lebanon and behind the truce lines and on the encouragement of Iraq's executioners and murderers whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples as well as the pan-Arab causes. The partitionists believe that the path is now paved before them to establish sectarianist and factional entity or entities and to create a new Israel. This is a historical mistake and an adventure that will bear bad consequences. All those who participate in and remain silent on this mistake and this adventure will pay the price if this continues. Those whose liberties and will were seized in the areas where the separatists placed their hands on by force will also pay the price.

It is impossible for the Lebanese to accept partition within any framework. Confederation, federation, and large-scale decentralization cannot hide the fact that it is Israel, not any Lebanese faction, which stands behind them.

The hawkish statements launched by the advocates of the partition plan not only do not fear anybody, but also do not hide the weakness of partitionists, the collapse of their positions, and their isolation in Lebanon. These statements also do not change the balance of powers on the ground. The partitionists who are hostile to the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese, who adhere to the unity of their homeland and territory, their homeland's independence, their security, peace, and fraternal coexistence, cannot succeed in implementing the Israeli plan. They also cannot make the national Lebanese forces that exist in every place keep silent on the crime committed against the homeland.

The real Lebanese nationalists adhere to the unity of the Lebanese territory and people, their country's independence, their Arab affiliation, and their country's distinguished role in the Arab world. They reject partition and fragmentation. They will never remain silent on any partition step. They will not allow this step to become a fait accompli as the Israeli way. The opportunity is now given to the wise and reasonable men and those who feel the responsibility to paralyze partition and the hands of partitionists and to save Lebanon from what its enemy is concocting against it.

Afghanistan

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives in Kabul 15 Oct

BK1510074988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 15 (AFP)—Moscow's new ambassador to Kabul, Yuliy Voronstov, flew here Saturday as diplomats disclosed that a crucial meeting of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was about to begin. Mr. Voronstov, a former deputy foreign minister in Moscow whose appointment was announced by the Kremlin on Friday, flew into Kabul early Saturday morning, a Soviet Embassy spokesman said. Diplomats said the appointment of such a high-level Foreign Ministry figure underlined Moscow's determination to end nine years of war in Afghanistan before the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal deadline.

With four months to go until then, and half of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops already out of Afghanistan, members of the Soviet-backed Kabul government have stepped up their calls for mujahidin resistance fighters to join a coalition government. The mujahidin have so far rejected the calls, and speculation in Kabul in the past two weeks has centred on whether the PDPA could come up with a formula that would satisfy the opposition. The PDPA was scheduled to hold a Central Committee meeting Saturday, according to well-informed diplomats here, but there was no official confirmation from an Afghan Government spokesman who had earlier said the meeting would be held October 10.

Sources said here Saturday that the Kabul government would continue its campaign to invite the mujahidin to join the coalition administration with further assurances that it would not be dominated by the PDPA. Last Thursday Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, a non-party member appointed last May, told foreign journalists that the PDPA was no more popular inside the country than the mujahidin. He said he would resign if the party tried to dominate a coalition.

The mujahidin say President Najibullah should first resign and the PDPA be dissolved before begining talks for coalition. Both Western and Eastern bloc diplomats here have said the Soviets are determined not to leave a state of chaos in Afghanistan when the last of their troops withdraw.

Vorontsov, Najibullah Speeches

LD1610204588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, this morning received His Excellency Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, who has also been appointed that country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Afghanistan. Yuliy Vorontsov presented his credentials in accordance with the routine formalities to the esteemed president of Afghanistan in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abdul Wakil and the head of protocol for the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov spoke after the presenting of his credentials: Comrade President, it is a great honor and sign of great trust that I represent the USSR's interests in the friendly and neighboring country of the Republic of Afghanistan. Soviet-Afghan relations enjoy a good and traditional history, going back to the time of V.I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, and Ghazi Amanullah, the leader of independent Afghanistan. The mutual good understanding, the traditional ties of two neighboring countries, and their joint interest in struggling for independence, freedom, and self- determination have contributed to establishing and consolidating friendship and good-neighborliness between our countries and provide a strong basis for Soviet-Afghan relations which have been developing over the past 70 years.

During this period the Soviet Union and Afghanistan enjoyed mutually beneficial cooperation in various ways and have worked to develop this cooperation. Taking into consideration its abilities, the Soviet Union has rendered assistance to the Afghan side for economic and social development and in training cadres. During the last decade Soviet-Afghan relations have developed further. Today our cooperation has been enriched with a completely new subject and practically covers all fields.

The Soviet Union has always regarded with respect the nonaligned policy of Afghanistan and that country's struggle for peace, an end to the arms race, the reduction of international tensions, and resolving of the existing international arena. This principal, along with understanding the realities of the present decades marked by the appearance of nuclear missiles, constitutes the foundation of the new political thinking that the Soviet Union has chosen as its policy in international affairs. We highly assess the position of the Afghan leadership in understanding and supporting our approach toward resolving pressing international issues and the efforts of the Soviet Union to find peaceful solutions to regional conflicts.

An outstanding example of this is the implementation of the national reconciliation policy by the leadership of Afghanistan and valuable role of Afghan side in [word indistinct] and attainment of the Geneva accords which are fully supported by the Soviet Union. In the future, the Soviet Union intends to help and assist in the economic and social development of the Republic of Afghanistan and in attaining the aims of this country's peaceful foreign policy. The proof of this is your recent meeting, Comrade President, with M.S. Gorbachev and the visit of Prime Miniser Muhammad Hasan Sharq to the Soviet Union. As M.S. Gorbachev mentioned during your meeting, you can rely on the support of the Soviet people in the struggle to end the imposed imperialist war, implement the national reconciliation policy, and develop Afghanistan independently.

Comrade President, having presented my credentials, I want to assure you that I will not spare any effort to develop and consolidate the friendly relations, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between our countries, and to contribute to the revival and the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the land of the Afghans.

Esteemed Najibullah, the Afghan president, welcomed the appointment of His Excellency Yuliy M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, as that country's ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan and expressed confidence that the appointment of Vorontsov, one of the outstanding politicians and diplomats of the Soviet Union, would play a major and considerable role in expanding and consolidating the existing friendly and fraternal relations between our two countries at this critical historical point in time.

Esteemed President Najibullah added that the Republic of Afghanistan considers the appointment of Vorontsov, with his great experience concerning Afghanistan, as the USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan as valuable in continuing the great assistance by that country to the Republic of Afghanistan and considers it as a sign of the profound interest and attention of the Soviet leadership and personally of His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in assisting the people of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Najibullah regarded the consolidation and expansion of relations between the two neighboring countries, which have historical and traditional roots, in the interest of strengthening peace and stability in the region and pointed out that the people of Afghanistan will never forget the selfless development aid of the Soviet Union which, following the announcement of the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan, has taken on new qualities. Among them one could cite the USSR's recent assistance of $600 million to Afghanistan through the United Nations, as well as the extensive and all-round direct assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Esteemed President Najibullah emphasized that today the Republic of Afghanistan, as a result of the signing of the Geneva accords and the sincere implementation of all its obligations and pledges and the realization of the policy of national reconciliation in the country, enjoys special credibility and prestige in the international arena. The results of the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in Nicosia and the progres of the 43d UN General Assembly session are examples of this reality in which the majority of countries of the world have gained confidence in the Republic of Afghanistan's sincere desire to quickly resolve the situation around Afghanistan.

Despite all designs of the enemies of peace and tranquillity and their unrealistic and unprincipled approach, we in the country are making every effort to maintain peace and isolate their subversive actions by sincerely pursuing the national reconciliation policy and will continue to do so while remaining completely ready to hold constructive negotiations with the parties concerned in order to achieve the cessation of war and fratricide in the country. At the same time, by relying on the will of the people and the brave and powerful Armed Forces of our country, we will never allow the enemies of Afghanistan to threaten the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country.

In conclusion, Esteemed President Najibullah, expressed wishes for the health and further successes of Yuliy M. Vorontsov in accomplishing his great tasks.

According to another report, Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was paid a courtesy call in his office this afternoon by Y. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs and ambassador of that country to Afghanistan. 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, was paid a courtesy call yesterday afternoon by Y. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs and ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Gives Medal to Departing Soviet Envoy

LD1410173888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, received this morning at a farewell meeting at Gol Khanah Palace His Excellency Yegorychev Nikolay Grigoryevich, USSR ambassador and representative extraordinary to the Republic of Afghanistan, whose term of service has ended. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq; and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and Saleh Muhammad Ziray, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee.

Esteemed Najibullah presented the Order of the April Revolution to His Excellency Yegorychev Nikolay Grigoryevich in recognition of his valuable service in expanding the friendly relations between the peoples of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Keshtmand Returns From GDR, USSR Visits

LD1410122888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 13, BAKHTAR—Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) returned today from the Soviet Union and after a short visit to the German Democratic Republic. Upon his arrival to the Kabul International Airport S.A. Keshtmand was received by Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA CC and Kraft Bumbel ambassador of the GDR in the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report during his visit to the GDR S.A. Keshtmand met in Berlin with Kurt Hager, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and took part in the 39th founding anniversary of the GDR as well. S.A. Keshtmand had gone to the Soviet Union for medical check up.

Najibullah Message to Red Crescent Society

LD1610065788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 15, BAKHTAR—To mark the special week of Red Crescent Society is to draw the attention of the people to the humane objective of this benevolent institution, says a message released by Najibullah on this occasion. The special week will be marked throughout Afghanistan from tomorrow. With great regret, the message adds, the continuation of war and interventions from abroad have brought about many misfortunes to the Afghan people. In order to end war, the Republic of Afghanistan proposed the policy of national reconciliation as an alternative to war and concluded the Geneva agreements for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan and to bring peace.

However, our countrymen and all the mankind see that children, men and women have become the victims of the contravention of Geneva accords by Pakistan. The extremists are continuing to kill the sons of their own country by firing rockets and other means. Though they will gain nothing but repentance. One of the ways to help the war victims, the message goes on to say, is to improve the material and moral possibilities of Afghan Red Crescent Society. He called on everybody to help that society enabling it to render valuable services to the victims of war and other casualties. President Najibullah in his message wished ever-further successes for the Afghan Red Crescent Society in the fulfilment of his humane and sacred tasks.

99th, 100th Protest Notes Submitted to UN Group

LD1610080488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 15, BAKHTAR—The ninety-ninth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant instances of violations by Pakistan from article second document [as received] number one of Geneva agreements was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today. According to another report the hundredth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on instances of violations by Pakistan from the provisions of Geneva agreements was submitted to the UNGOMAP later today as well. The notices which contain all-sided information on violations by Pakistan from Geneva agreements demand the mission that on the basis of article seven document number four of Geneva agreement investigate the said instances and bring results of its findings to the attention of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

101st Note Submitted

LD1710064588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 16, BAKHTAR—101st notice of the Republic of Afghanistan about the gross violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was submitted today to United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP. The notice underlines four instances of the flagrant violations by Pakistan of the 2nd Article, Document Number 1, of Geneva agreements. The notice asks the UNGOMAP to assess the violations and to inform the Afghan side and the envoy of the UN secretary general of the findings.

2 'U.S. Advisers' Killed in Gardeyz

LD1610174988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] BAKHTAR reports that in the last 25 days armed extremists with the assistance of U.S. and Pakistani advisers have fired approximately 1,290 surface-to-surface missiles at the city of Gardeyz, the center of Paktia Province and on the districts of that province, killing (?31) persons including children, women, and elderly people, injuring 240, and causing financial losses. The units and companies of the Armed Forces in Gardeyz inflicted crushing blows on the criminal extremists yesterday with the cooperation of local people, as a result of which 35 extremists were killed in the area, including 2 U.S. advisers and 2 Pakistani officers, and a large number of them were wounded.

'Criminal Extremists' Fire on Kabul, Jalalabad

LD1610163488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The criminal extremists have fired heavy weapons over the residential areas of Kabul and Jalalabad cities. Today at approximately 0910 three rocket were fired by extremist elements at the residential areas of (Fazel Beg), (Niaz Beg), and (Dash-e Best Hazari) in Kabul city, killing three persons and injuring another three. A minibus was completely burned. Another report says that extremist elements fired 13 surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas of Ward 3 of Jalalabad city yesterday, killing two of our compatriots.

Islamabad Notes Recent Mujahidin Operations

10 Security Posts Captured

BK1410155788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have carried out major attacks on Kabul regime military cantonments and military bases and are increasing pressure on Kabul troops on various fronts. They are

reported to have either captured or destroyed 10 security posts thus far in the Sarowbi area along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. After capturing Paktika provincial headquarters, the mujahidin are now tightening their siege around Qalat-e Ghelza'i, the headquarters of Zabol Province, along the Kabul-Qandahar highway. They have also shot down a helicopter carrying supplies for the troops besieged at Qalat-e Ghelza'i.

Posts Near Farah Captured

BK1510062488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have achieved success in their operations against the Kabul administration's forces and have seized a large quantity of arms. Fierce fighting continues between the mujahidin and the Kabul administration's forces in the northern areas of Afghanistan. The mujahidin were successful in capturing Kabul administration military posts north of Farah city. According to reports, two-thirds of Farah city is under the control of the mujahidin, and now they are launching frequent attacks on military and government installations, inflicting heavy loss of life and property on the Kabul forces.

Helicopters Shot Down in South

BK1510111788 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have reportedly shot down eight [number as heard] helicopters during operations in the southwestern provinces of Vardak, Ghazni, and Helmand. According to reports, two helicopters each were downed in Vardak and Ghazni, while the remaining six were destroyed in Helmand. All the crew of the helicopters were killed.

700 Soldiers Captured

BK1610163088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin have carried out a number of successful operations in various provinces. In Badakshan, 60 soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed and about 700 captured alive in the operation. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been seized. Mujahidin also shot down a transport plane at (Galang), northwest of Khowst, killing its pilot and crew.

Bangladesh

Ershad Addresses Parliament on Flood Control

BK1610140188 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] A special session of the Bangladesh Parliament opened in Dhaka today. Addressing the first sitting, President Ershad stressed the need for a lasting solution to the recurring problem of floods through regional cooperation and international assistance. He made a fervent appeal to the neighboring countries to come forward to joining a pragmatic and effective regional endeavor to resist floods permanently and help save 200 crore people from the scourge of this recurring menace. Such an approach, he said, will ensure acceleration of socioeconomic advancement of the teeming millions of this region.

In this context the president pointed out that a vast portion of flood waters that causes deluge in Bangladesh comes from beyond the geographical boundaries of this country with their sources in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. Quoting national and international experts, he said floods in Bangladesh are a manmade curse caused by systematic deforestation of the Himalayan range, removal of natural barriers that stop the flow of water due to regular landslides, melting of the Himalayan glacier on an unusual scale, and finally, construction of dams, including the Farakka barrage, embankments, spars, and groins at the upper catchment.

Elaborating Bangladesh's efforts in the quest for regional cooperation, the president said he had proposed a meeting of experts of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China for flood control. He did not rest content with the proposal and travelled to India, Nepal, and Bhutan soon after the recession of flood waters to discuss with the top leadership of these countries about overall flood situation. A task force with each of the countries he visited has been formed, and the president said he is also going to China shortly on a similar mission.

The president in his address also pointed out that the flood in Bangladesh has caused quite a stir in the international field along with stressing the need for regional cooperation. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has taken a special initiative with regard to flood in Bangladesh. The UN General Assembly is also going to discuss the problem of flood in the country. The world leaders have stressed the need for universal approach to this recurring problem in Bangladesh.

The special representative of U.S. President Reagan, James Morris, visited Bangladesh and assured his government's all possible support and cooperation. Besides, President Reagan has written a letter to Bangladesh president assuring his government's support and help for the courageous people of Bangladesh in their distress and suffering. French President Francois Mitterrand has urged the international community to deploy all their power and resources to the aid and assistance of the areas in the grip of natural disaster and suggested a scheme to (?twin) rivers that flooded Bangladesh.

As a step in that direction the heads of SAARC states and governments, leaders of the Muslim world, including the Saudi monarch Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, expressed deep sympathy for the people of Bangladesh and assured the readiness to stand by them. Different international agencies, including World Bank, have pledged fund for permanent solution to the problem of flood. The Asian

Development Bank has expressed its readiness to mediate in seeking solution to this problem. The president announced an 11-point immediate plan of action and a 15-point mid-term and long-term plans to lessen the fury of floods in Bangladesh. These plans include dredging of the rivers at some specific point of confluence and link points of rivers, improvement of flood warning system, construction of embankment, and planting of fast growing trees and change of cropping pattern.

Begum Khaleda Zia Leads Anti-Government Rally

BK1510144288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 15 (AFP)—Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia held a major anti-government rally here Saturday, a day before a special parliamentary session on Bangladesh's worst floods in memory, correspondents and witnesses reported. They said some 10,000 to 15,000 people attended the rally, the first since the flooding disaster, in the downtown Gulistan District. Begum Zia, chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, called on President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to scrap bilateral accords his government concluded recently with India and some other neighbouring countries on flood emergencies and water management. "A lasting solution to Bangladesh's annual floodings was only possible with regional cooperation and international support," Begum Zia, widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, told a cheering crowd.

According to observers, this was the first time Dhaka had witnessed such a big anti-goverment rally and march since the largely divided opposition groups maintained a low profile following a boycotted and controversial parliament election in March this year. She said the people of Bangladesh would not accept the accord reached during Mr Ershad's talks in New Delhi with Premier Rajiv Gandhi last month to set up a "task force" to deal with the problem of Bangladesh's recurring floods. She also asserted that only a democratic government elected through an impartial general election was capable of solving major problems such as flooding. The flooding this year submerged three-quarters of Bangladesh, claimed 2,200 lives, left some 30 million people homeless, and caused damage to crops and properties worth millions of dollars.

Correspondents said Begum Zia, who threatened to revive an "Oust Ershad" opposition campaign, later led a post-rally march as hundreds of armed riot police stood on alert at major traffic points in crowded downtown. They said two minor firecrackers exploded near the venue at the end of the rally but no one was injured. No one claimed responsibility. The BNP, which also heads a seven-party alliance which along with the Awami League dominated the eight-party group of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami Party, had spearheaded a movement until early this year to force the resignation of Lieutenant General Ershad. He came to power in a coup in 1982. The opposition groups had also held a much-publicised "Dhaka Siege" on November 10 last year.

Begum Zia announced that her BNP and alliance would organise a mass rally in Dhaka on the first anniversary to revive the anti-government movement. She appealed to all opposition parties and groups to unite afresh for the resignation of Ershad government which she alleged had "succumbed to foreign pressures and compromised with the national interests." But she did not elaborate. Begum Zia also called on the government to publish a white paper on the handling of foreign aid and relief and complained that they were not distributed to genuine flood victims.

India

Gandhi on 'Outside Intervention' in Kashmir

BK1510035988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The prime minister says attempts from across the border to create a Punjab-like situation in Jammu and Kashmir will be defeated with full force. Addressing a rally of Congress-I workers in Jammu last evening, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said outside intervention in the state started after such efforts failed to work in Punjab. AIR Jammu correspondent says the prime minister's reference was to the infiltration of some Kashmiri youths trained in the use of sophisticated weapons in Pakistan. A number of such young people have recently been arrested and a huge of cache of smuggled arms and ammunition seized from them.

The prime minister said Jammu and Kashmir is a sensitive border state and the alliance between the Congress-I and the National Conference is aimed at strengthening the unity of the country. It is also for defeating the efforts from across the border to create disorder. Mr Gandhi said the vigil on our borders will not be slackened and any effort to harm us will be fully repulsed. He said the situation in Punjab has improved a great deal with people coming forward to combat terrorism.

Mr Gandhi said the panchayati raj [village council administration] system needs to be strengthened for effective decentralization of planning at the district, block, and village levels.

Addressing another public meeting at Kishtwar in Doda District earlier in the day, the prime minister said the final decision on launching the 390 mw Doorhasti Hydro-electric power project will be announced soon. He (?held) detailed discussions with the state governor, Mr Jag Mohan, the chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, and officials. He is visiting the Ladakh region and Kashmir valley today.

On Ties With Pakistan, China

BK1610033888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The prime minister has announced an interim flood relief of about 53 crore rupees for Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar yesterday evening at the end of his 2-day visit to the flood hit areas of the state, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the final quantum of the relief will be decided after a detailed memorandum is received from the state government. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, the prime minister said that he has seen the weapons and ammunition seized from some youths in the Kashmir valley and these issues will be taken up in proper quarters.

Referring to relations with Pakistan, the prime minister said India wants the process for improving the relations with that country to continue despite recent happenings there.

About his proposed visit to China, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that it is likely in the 3d week of December. The prime minister also pointed out that Beijing seems to be sincere in developing better relations with neighbors, particularly in developmental activities. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is now back in New Delhi.

Pakistan Accused of Causing 'Disturbances'

BK1710032688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has called upon intelligence agencies to redouble their efforts to safeguard the interests of the nation. He said internal and external forces are bent upon disintegrating the country. Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Intelligence Bureau in Srinagar, Dr Abdullah accused Pakistan of engineering disturbances by infiltrating arms and trained personnel into Jammu and Kashmir.

Haryana Chief Minister Decides Not To Resign

BK1610125388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, is not to quit office. He said he has reversed his decision to submit the resignation of his government following day-long parleys with the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, and other leaders. Mr Devi Lal told newsmen in Chandigarh that he is not accepting the resignation of the state home minister, Mr Sampat Singh. The home minister had submitted his resignation yesterday evening following allegations of favoritism in the police department. Briefing newsmen in Chandigarh, the Janata Dal chief, Mr V.P. Singh, said Mr Devi Lal's resignation at this stage will not be useful to the Janata Dal.

8 Killed, 13 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab

BK1510161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab 8 people were killed and 13 terrorists arrested since last night. Three farmers were killed in Jullundur District and two in Amritsar District. Terrorists shot dead two persons in village Ikiri Afghana of Gurdaspur District. Another person was killed near Kori village in Ludhiana District. Eleven terrorists were arrested from Katunangal and Lopoki areas under Majitha police district. Eight of them are hard-core terrorists. Two scooter-borne terrorists were arrested by a naka [search] party near Banor village in Ludhiana District after a brief encounter.

SGPC Bans Firearms in Golden Temple Complex

BK1610130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee [Sikh Temple Management Committee] has banned carrying of firearms into the Golden Temple complex. It has also prohibited the holding of meetings and gatherings inside Sikh shrines without obtaining prior permission from the body. The SGPC secretary, Mr Manjit Singh Kalkatta, told newsmen that the new code would be enforced not only in the Golden Temple but also in other shrines under its control.

100 Kg of Heroin Seized; 2 People Arrested

BK1510133888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] In a major operation 100 kg of heroin has been seized from village Kakkar on the Indo-Pakistan border. The seizure was made by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence [DRI] and the border security force. A DRI spokesman told our correspondent the contraband is worth 100 crore rupees in international market. Two persons have been arrested.

Iran

Velayati Announces Acceptance of Article 2

LD1710110488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati today clarified the position of the Islamic Republic with regard to the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva and in New York, and described Iraq's obstructionism in the talks at a gathering of ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and political representatives of foreign countries residing in Tehran.

Mr Velayati enumerated the various instances of Iraqi obstructionism in the course of the peace talks, and asked that the Iraqi regime's behavior be seriously and suitably dealt with by the Security Council and international organizations.

Addressing the diplomatic representatives of foreign countries, he announced: The Islamic Republic is fully prepared to cooperate with the secretary general on the implementation of all the clauses of Resolution 598. We declare that we are totally prepared to implement Article, and to exchange prisoners, a humane and humanitarian action.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

Sermon on Value of Criticism

LD1410184388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 13 Oct 88

[First Friday prayers sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis speaker, at Tehran University on 14 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In last Friday's sermon, we emphasized that divine piety should be observed and stressed to all sisters and brothers the importance of performing religious duties. We continued the discussion on social justice and the base and harmful characteristics of the arrogant strata. We also talked about one of the unpleasant features of the arrogant, which is resistance in the face of justness and the refusal to accept justness [haqq].

The discussion of this harmful and base characteristic, which interferes with and obstructs progress, was divided into two parts. One of these parts was explained in the last sermon, and today I will explain the other part. This part concerns the issue of not accepting criticism. In our last discussion, we mentioned the question of resistance in the face of justness, a whole chapter of which amounts to not accepting criticism. This is one of the very bad characteristics of persons who are arrogant, proud, and vain. Usually, these types of people cannot come to terms with criticism because they are self-centered, arrogant, and selfish. This is a harmful trait, which always affects society.

If there were freedom to criticize and if the arrogant did not possess this ugly characteristic, then the criticisms on their own could break arrogance. One of the elements allowing arrogance and hegemony to persist is this same spirit of not accepting criticism, which is found in arrogant, tyrannical people. This can be found in all the ranks and dimensions of the world of arrogance. [passage omitted]

It is only by taking away from the arrogant their sense of absolute power that, perhaps, in their state of weakness, they may show a suitable response when faced with justness and accept justness. That means that one of the methods in which arrogant powers and persons can be made to listen to what the person facing them is saying and to accept criticism is for them to receive a blow which undermines their sense of power. In this way, just words can infiltrate and influence them. This shows that those who believe themselves to have absolute power are not ready to accept just words. [passage omitted].

Persons who are proud and selfish have closed the path to criticism. One of society's greatest problems today is this problem of criticism, particularly in depotically ruled countries, in one form in many Third World countries, and in another form in advanced and outwardly democratic countries. The people's just words do not reach the ears of the officials, authorities, and powers, and the nation and society are deprived of the blessings of criticism. Of course, criticism made through resistance and the creation of chaos and sensation is something different.

There are people who would sincerely like to offer advice; to explain political science, management and directorship sciences, and the weak points found therein, so that managers and directors and other officials can be reformed and better serve the country. If they accept and listen to what is being said, this is the road to the abundant blessings that the society will receive from the people through the reform of the officials. Of course, if the advice is met with resistance, then this calls for futher discussion, for resistance itself is a trend. Those who do not accept criticism are led to the next step, resistance. Resistance will then spread like cancer, but criticism will not.

Criticism means that there are persons who identify what benefits society, and even they could make mistakes. It is not necessary for criticism to be correct; it may even amount to an unjust word. The point is that the critic will see something wrong with the person who is in charge of society's affairs, the person in charge of society's technical skills, the person in charge of society's education, science, wealth, and politics. People may come across some problems in these areas. If we hear these problems, pay attention to them: Either they have said something just and we accept it, or it is not just and we should be able to convince them that what they said is unjust. This type of criticism is correct; it is the best means by which society can grow, unite, and speak with one voice. In this way grudges and prejudices can be eliminated and idols smashed. [passage omitted]

Sermon on Reconstruction

LD1410192788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1255 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis speaker, at Tehran University on 14 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the second sermon today, I will speak about a very important issue: our own situation on the threshold of the era of reconstruction and the interim between the war and peace. I call on all those here and all the people to pay attention to my remarks. [passage omitted]

My debate is based mainly on the premise that we have left the war behind. Of course, we do not know whether or not this is true. However, because of Iraq's obstructionism, we believe that there is a serious possibility of the renewal of the war. Yet, this is not a strong possibility, because the Iraqis have suffered so much in the war and are so sorry. They will not afflict themselves with war unless they are forced to do so, or unless they receive definite orders from their masters. However, as they have no authority of their own, others do the planning for them, and as we are not yet certain that the enemies of Islam and the revolution have abandoned the idea of an armed atact against us, we must not lightly dismiss the possiblity of war.

In any case, the greater possibility is that the war is over and that we are entering a new phase, the era of reconstruction. Now, assuming this is the case, we must be prepared; we must prepare our programs. Once we are sure that the time is ripe to begin reconstruction, then we will not delay in planning and preparing our resources. That is why I think the conditions must be clarified, particularly because of the message of His holiness the imam. Although the imam's message was really expressive, it is necessary to explain its objectives and the reason for its proclamation. Indeed, one can see that there is some ambiguity in some people's minds.

First of all, regarding the start of reconstruction, I will explain our society's existing situation. Then I will refer to the resources and possibilities for reconstruction. After that, I will explain the likely obstacles and problems.

As for the existing situation, it seems that we have passed the basic phases of building an Islamic society, a society which may well be presented as one with Islamic aspirations. It seems that during the 10 years of the revolutionary period we have prepared the infrastructure of a society in line with our aspirations.

From a political viewpoint, obstacles have almost been removed. Dictatorship in Iran has been broken. The dominance of arrogance and colonialism has come to an end. No one, no country, and no ideology other than Islam and other than Iran can exert influence in Iran. This is the most important basis for our work. [passage omitted] After the revolution we uprooted colonialism. We have uprooted the influence of foreigners, particularly Western domination which has been a cancer in this country over the past 2 centuries. Today only the nation and the leadership and the authorities of the country, the Majlis, the Cabinet, and the managers, make the decisions, as they understand and as they deem necessary.

Indeed, in this earthly world under the skies, in the Third World or in developing countries there cannot be found a country which has the freedom to make decisions the way our nation does. Our nation has achieved this because of the revolution.

The second point is that we have left behind the period of resistance, struggle, and clashes with obstacles which are natural for a revolution like ours. That is to say all existing ploys have been used against us; our enemies utilized every possible means against our country, but they were totally defeated in all of their efforts, and their arrows landed on solid rock. They tried a coup d'etat, armed rebellions, and the liberals' conspiracies. They agitated internal disputes in various ways. Most importantly, however, they tried the war with all its dimensions. They put all of their means behind an aggressive country, behind the Ba'th Party, which is responsible for many atrocities and is the mercenary of both the East and West.

They used all of their propaganda and subversive capabilities, but the Iranian nation bravely climbed all these uphill paths imposed before it and is now nearing its aim. Now the vessel of the revolution has passed through the turbulent ocean stirred up by world arrogance. The Iranian nation is about to berth on the coast of salvation, and it seems that considering the lessons learned by arrogance and the experience that our nation has achieved, the possibility of their trying to test their luck again is remote. However, we must always consider them our enemies; we are the object of their dislike. We must, therefore, maintain our vigilance.

Those political currents which were in the country and were acting as the mercenaries of the enemies of Islam are almost totally defunct now. The rightist camp had no dignity from the outset, it was negligible. The leftist camp, a proper mercenary of arrogance, lost the support that it may have had among a limited number of people. The hypocrites camp, which was the worst one in our country as it had claims to being Islamic and used to deceive the youth through childish slogans, no longer has a place in our society. This is because they made some fundamental mistakes and fell into the hands of the Iraqi Ba'thist Party. They fought against their own nation and confronted the various strata of their nation by involving themselves in espionage and treason. [passage omitted]

Consequently, we do not have any obstacles worthy of attention inside our country. We have also left behind the period of testing, studying, and becoming familiar with the country's capabilities. It is natural that when a nation which had been distanced from the country's affairs, such as industry, culture, politics, propaganda, and foreign policy, took over the running of the country, it was quite ignorant of the means and instruments for state-management. Many of us, particularly those younger than us who were either pupils or students during the time of the revolution, were unaware of the realities of running the country. We and they now have succeeded becoming more aware of the realities over the course of the years. Today our managers, officials, and many of our people are familiar with the realities of our country and our region. Such a background is necessary

for the task of construction. We had to pass through this period of gathering experience, and we needed a place to train our appropriate managers.

Speaking from an international perspective, today many ears are listening to us. The war and and the other events, by which Iran became front page news or at least became an important segment of world news, made the whole world or a substantial number of people in the world willing to listen to news about Iran. There are many listeners in the world, and if under the present conditions we manage to create an acceptable type of society and set up a suitable model of development, progress, evolution, and correct Islamic morals for the world, then we will achieve what the world has feared; that is, the export of the Islamic revolution.

The world made the mistake of believing that we wanted to export our revolution by invading other countries, through war and military actions. This is because of the world's ignorance and its lack of knowledge about us. [passage omitted]

The people of the world, and even our own people, may get excited by slogans, but they do not become engrossed with them. Slogans do not induce faith in people. In order to attract the people's faith, we must present them with a scientific model and say that this is the structural model of the Islamic Republic. Then we must call on those who consider the path of Islam beneficial to this worldly existence. The nation now has the suitable background to achieve this, because of the war and the gigantic and profound defense that our nation displayed over the last 8 years. Our nation resisted all on its own, despite the disadvantages of various boycotts and other evil conditions. Yet our nation did not extend a supplicating hand toward any of the arrogant powers and did not ask for anything from them. It passed over that very uneven path on its own feet and created the suitable background for itself, as well as gaining a reputation in the world as a nation with an independent character. [passage omitted]

There are two other parts to our discussion today. The first concerns our means for constructing a model society, and the second is about the obstacles and problems we may encounter on this path.

Concerning the means, what we already know and understand about Iran is that we have enough raw material and essential resources for creating a comfortable, independent, free, prosperous [ru-berah], and just society. With the capabilities which exist in the country, those which currently exist and those which do not yet exist but whose potential can be realized, we can create an Islamic society in this land which we can claim to be a model of Islam as prescribed by the Koran and the prophet of Islam. Here I will make some references to our capabilities.

The first problem is management. If we do not have proper management, we will not be able to achieve anything, no matter how many resources we have in the country. [passage omitted] In view of our familiarization with the issue over the past 10 years, I should say that for the vast majority of our needs we have managers, not high-level ones, but satisfactory. There are many sincere individuals, those who are employed at the moment and those who may not be employed, who are known to us. From this point of view we can rest assured.

The second point is human resources. [passage omitted] In this category, we currently have a satisfactory number of people, as many as our financial and foreign exchange capabilities enable us to use at this present juncture. I believe we are among those countries of the world, apart from those few very advanced countries of the world, which have sufficient human resources to take care of our affairs. Our universities are active and are producing human resources. At the moment, we have about 40,000 students in government and nongovernmental universities. We also have hundreds of thousands of educated people abroad, and if we improve conditions, if we give up some of the short-sightedness, some of our excesses, and some of the crudities that were necessary in the early stages of the revolution, and these days we have no need of such crudities, then we will be able to attract them back to the country.

Our domestic human resources are sufficient for our needs. Of course, it is possible that we may need experts from abroad in certain cases, in advanced industries, in very complex dams, in important power-generators, in factories relying upon the most modern facilities, in space and satellite industries, and in some other similar important industries. However, this is something common to the whole world and is not limited to us. Even if you go to the United States, or Germany, or Britain you will see that they have attracted thousands of experts from other places who are working for them. However, at this stage I do not think that we are in need of human resources from abroad which might dilute our independence and our aspirations.

Regarding other material resources, Iran is a very rich and has many resources. Iran possesses many things. In the past there was a rush of foreign experts who came to this country out of greed and avarice to discover our resources. However, there are many things which they did not discover then which were discovered in the period after the revolution. There were also many things which were discovered in the past.

Regarding mineral resources, we are one of the relatively rich countries of the world. Our proven gas reserves are second in the world. The Russians, the Soviets, are first, and we are second. Our gas reserves for domestic use by all our people, if we do not wish to export it, will last for about 400 years. There are many parts of the country which have not yet been excavated, and there will be mineral resources which yet to be discovered. As for oil,

that which has been discovered and which can be utilized, with our present consumption we will have oil for tens of years. Even now there are new techniques and possible deposits which may produce hundreds or tens of billions of barrels of oil, which we are trying to discover.

As for other minerals, such as gold, we have recently discovered several very rich gold mines. As in the past, there was no intention of allowing Iran to have anything except oil; the foreign experts made no efforts to make new discoveries. We do not plan to be dependent solely on oil. We do not wish to have only one commodity as a source of our foreign exchange earning, we made our own explorations. Gold mines have been discovered in Iran recently, not one or two, but many rich mines whose purity is better than the best gold mines of South Africa, the quantity and quality of which are unique in the world today. At the moment, we are busy carrying out tests in a number of places. In some places the tests are completed, and we are trying to set up factories and refining plants for the production of gold.

There are also many copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, and uranium mines, as well as many other metals. We have many large mines which can satisfy the country's needs, except in a few cases.

We have access to the seas both in the north and the south. Even in our present condition, with our present industries, and with capabilities currently at our disposal, if we rent, purchase, or build a few fishing boats, we have the capability of increasing in a short time period our fishing industry to 500,000 tonnes, or nearly five times its present quantity.

As for water resources, our country does not receive a lot of rain. It has a low rainfall. Most parts of our country are arid. Our country is an arid one and in view of its vast size it does not have sufficient water resources. [passage omitted] In spite of this, our country still has enough water to satisfy a population few times larger than our present number. Presently, around 20 billion cubic meters of fresh water runs off from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iraq; that is, Iraq on its own takes away and consumes 20 billion cubic meters of our water which runs in rivers connecting with the Tigris and run off to the Persian Gulf by way of the Shatt al-'Arab. This is equal to 50 times the water behind Karaj Dam.

Furthermore, this is not the end of the story; the runoff goes to the USSR and Turkey. A great quantity also runs off to the sea near Khuzestan, Fars, Hormozgan and Baluchestan va Sistan. If tamed, this amount of water can provide a great deal of power. Hydroelectric generators along the rivers in the above-mentioned areas can provide a great supply of power. Along the Karun and Karkheh alone, dams whose sites have already been surveyed can generate over 10,000 mw. This is the most desirable method of generating electricity as it is the least harmful to the environment and is low in cost and highly reliable. This figure is equal to the energy generated by 10 or 15 nuclear power plants, for which the world has to invest heavily; whereas, all we need to do is build some dams. We must encourage the construction of dams which the former regime neglected despite our capabilities in this area. Instead, the resources were directed into constructing nuclear power plants. Had they constructed the dams instead of the 20 nuclear plants which they did design, then Iran would forever be guaranteed a very strong position on its energy requirements.

This is always possible for us, and with limited assistance from friendly countries such as China or others we can build the dams to eliminate the shortage of energy supply.

As for the agricultural situation, you are aware that our country has the best agricultural produce thanks to its sun and climate. Handicrafts, which can be a vast source of wealth and an earner of foreign exchange for a large part of our society, are by their nature, unequalled in the world. This is the case with Persian carpets and other Iranian handicrafts. Iran's (?fruit) produce and its handicrafts cannot be competed with.

Sources of wealth in this country exist for the reconstruction of a well-to-do, powerful, and wealthy country. The reason for the absence of this reconstruction in the past was the presence of colonialists as the enemies of Iran. The reason that reconstruction did not occur during the course of the revolution is that they held us back. They did not want the Iranian nation to start its task of reconstruction; therefore, they created all kinds of problems for us.

The capacity to produce machinery in Iran is very extensive. At present, the plants operating in many manufacturing branches will not only fill our domestic needs at their full production capacity but they will be able to export goods thus generating foreign currency. We have sufficient machinery to diversify and expand our industry in the world. As for large plants producing the raw materials for our factories and industries as well as intermediate materials, we are presently completing around 13 million tonnes in the steel and petrochemical industries. This will provide a quick expansion of our country's production of intermediary materials with a limited amount of investment and specialized workforce from the world.

For example, Mobarakeh Steel Complex will provide 2.5 million tonnes of steel in the form of sheets and other necessary items. The ancilliary copper industries will satisfy all the needs of the domestic copper industries. [as heard] The Iran-Japan Petrochemical plant alone can save the country over $1 billion in foreign currency. Some chemical fertilizer plants can be upgraded with $10 million of investment to provide 1.5 million tonnes of currently imported chemical fertilizers. The basic products that total 13 million tonnes, which are the raw

materials for our other plants—all of which are provided with management and specialist and technical staff—create the basis for a movement in our country.

Thanks to the blessings of God, we are one of those countries with sufficient foreign exchange to begin these projects. We are not suffering the fate of international debtors. One of the dreams enjoyed by the arrogance was that of imposing a foreign debt on us during the course of the imposed war. The worst fate is to carry foreign debt. If we were in Iraq's present situation with its $60-70 billion in debts, we would be obliged to hand over all our oil earnings just to pay the interest on the debts. Countries such as Brazil, Mexico, and even Turkey—which being partially industrialized and carry $50 billion in debt—are all suffering the most difficult lives.

A country free from debt, enjoying some credit and all the above-mentioned materials and capabilities, can with little difficulty evolve into an econmically independent country, relying on its own resources. Of course, all my remarks are about the potential and talents, but the task of realizing, managing, organizing, and completing these projects is time-consuming. Be that as it may, the people of our country and in our society are not poor. Our people enjoy considerable assets which can be directed into proper channels instead of maintaining black markets of gold, foreign currencies, cars, and property and instead of stocking basic necessities for profit-making—all of which are means of consuming the country's money by the black market and of causing inflation. These assets, correctly administered, can be guided into production and correct moves.

Our society's capacity is strong, unlike most of the neighboring countries. Furthermore, our major asset is that of our divine leadership of the vice-regency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. This will unite the people at all times by keeping us away from deviations to the left or to the right, as well as harmful and troublesome clashes. The power of the vice-regency of the jurisconsult leadership—being a divine and supreme axis among our people—can resolve such issues. Therefore, from the viewpoint of science, culture, politics, natural resources, world stature, management, and workforce, we have reached a point where we have a chance of evolving into a society acceptable as a model in the Islamic world by some limited attention and satisfying possible needs by correctly utilizing our own resources.

However, regarding the obstructionists, the difficulties, and the obstacles we hitherto faced, we should be alert in order not to let these obstacles obstruct our path. First of all, we should not assume that the foreign obstructionists—those who obstructed us before the revolution and after the revolution—are always inclined to obstruct us, unless they are in despair. We should never doubt that neither the East nor the West would like a power under the name of Islam and which is known as a Third World nation and is dependent on neither the East nor the West, to become prominent in the world. Neither the East nor the West would like such a power to put the arrogant powers under interrogation and guide the Third World in the independence movement. Neither the East nor the West desire such a situation.

They obstruct us whenever they can. They certainly never help us in following the path toward independence. Yes, when they sense that, whether they like it or not, we will follow this path and that this path is passable, then they may adapt themselves to these conditions. If they consider the things which involve their encounter with Islam and which could create the same difficulties for them in the future that they expereinced in the past, then in order to save themselves, they will have to lessen their obstructions. We ourselves could also be responsible for obstructionism: creating enemies can be an obstructionist factor.

At times, man's aspirations necessitate his involvement, opposition, and fighting. There is no time during our discussion today to discuss this topic, but one should discuss it at an appropriate moment. There are times when one creates enemies for oneself for no reason, one creates obstruction, becomes involved in a fight which absorbs those facilities which should be used for construction. It is possible that we did this in the period of our immaturity in running the country, in the period of the euphoria of the revolution. With the experience we have gained during this turbulent decade, we have learned not to create unnecessary obstruction by neither assuming the enemy to be a friend nor relying on him. We should not naively assume that the enemy will help to liberate us or help us to flourish. We should neither think this nor should we embark on creating enemies for ourselves.

It is on this basis that we are now cooperating with our neighbors. We feel that there is no reason for us to quarrel with the countries south of the Persian Gulf. If we quarrel with them, the situation would be as it is at present. At present, why is it that the price of oil should be $10 or $11? This oil revenue is not for me to do with as I wish. This is for our future generations. This is the power behind us. This is the (?jewel) and the gasoline for the wheels of the engine which moves our country. Therefore, we are able to stop the way this is being plundered if we can.

We must cooperate with the countries south of the Persian Gulf and form a joint petroleum pact, to stop anyone from pouring petroleum onto the market for no reason, leading to an oil glut. This type of competition will work to the advantage of the Western oil devourers, the industrial nations, because they can buy oil at $10 per barrel and convert it into $500-$1,000 barrels of chemical products which they then sell back to us.

It is possible for us to live beside our Muslim neighbors and avoid such problems. We should not forfeit this asset of the country, this provision of the people and Islam, by childish slogans. We are going to chant, but we are not going to cultivate childish ideas.

A second possible obstacle that could be obstructing us from reaching a just Islamic society, could be our own wealthy and blood-sucking class. The same people who during the war used to hoard to make greater profit, the same people who used to sell the people wartime necessities on the black market; the same people who, when our children at schools, universities, factories, and industries, and our villagers and older people were getting killed or losing their health at the fronts in the defense of Islam, were conspiring to profiteer and create black markets. During the period of reconstruction, these things will be done more evilly. They assume that during this period there will be a need for their skills, their money, a need for construction know-how, a need for management, and they are waiting to play their filthy games.

Our society's aim is to create an Islamic human being. We should enrich society and produce wealth, but if there are to be people suffering from starvation, we will not do it at their expense. Japan, the United States, or other countries may be like this, but we are not. Therefore, one of the obstructionist factors within the country is the material provisions which are in the hands of those wealthy citizens who lack aspiration and have not suffered.

His eminence the imam has emphasized that the government's supervision and the correct regulations and management, while forcing the wealthy to work and encouraging them to embark on productive activities, will put a stop to profiteering, monopolies, and the exploitation of the weak and the workers.

The third obstruction is the impure and unclean forces which still exist in some offices and some governmental and nongovernmental organizations. They are people who are by nature corrupt and obstructionist. They wreck things and make people dissatisfied. They delay people's business. They delay government business. They do not perform their duty well. We find such people in all sectors. That must be seriously rectified. If they do not mend their ways themselves, and if they do not want to do their work but want to be obstructionists from their positions within government organizations and on government salaries, then a solution must be found. If the wheels of social movement are oiled and begin their movement, and then they throw a wrench in the works, it will be dangerous. We must keep an eye on them.

Another group which can obstruct reconstruction are those who, because of factionalism, fanaticism, misunderstandings, and—as the imam graciously described it—those who are frozen in their belief, and those who have religious pretensions; people who cannot adjust themselves to the circumstances of the day and who do not understand the needs of an Islamic movement; and those who do not understand the meaning of social justice. If there is a correct movement toward the equitable distribution of wealth, toward the establishment of justice, toward the encouragement of people, toward the absorption of specialist forces who they believe are un-Islamic and must not be allowed to work; if, toward various ends, we want to use the talents of all our country's people, then this group may, with incorrect interpretations and with poisoned words, contaminate the minds of the society, the minds of Muslims. We must keep an eye on them in the course of future actions.

Another group which may be obstructionist are those satans who, as the mercenaries of foreigners, be they Eastern or Western, exist inside our country. They may, through deviationist slogans—whether the slogans be leftist or rightist—prevent our progress. We have seen in many instances when an important task is to be done in the country, some people resort with feeling to seemingly correct slogans. They even use the slogans of the revolution, the words of the imam, to prevent that action.

For example,. let us imagine we want—I am just using this as an example—Japanese petrochemical knowhow, which can provide millions of tonnes of raw material for our factories from oil that is being wasted, from gas which is burning away. Let us imagine, for example, that we want to use experts from a certain country or that we want to work with a Japanese company. Of course, there are no protests in this regard; I am just using it as an example. They may say it is not in keeping with the ideals of the revolution, and they may speak to the people in such a way that the establishment of a factory of that magnitude with regard to the country's requirements is not in keeping with the ideals of the revolution. They would say that our people are willing to endure hunger, thirst, long lines, coupons, and so on and that they are not willing to use foreign help. Of course, those people themselves are not prepared to stand in a line even for a single day. Such people with those kinds of slogans may prevent the work of managers.

Another example: A university may want to raise the level of its scientific knowhow by using specialist forces. With a single childish slogan, those people may cause the hand of the person in charge of the program to tremble. They may say that the imam said a certain thing on a certain occasion, although the words of the imam must all be viewed in their own context. Those people—the ones who are very clever—are secretive. They may even deceive a number of youths who may be good people, faithful youths. They may speak with feeling, but they may create problems. We must be vigilant. Regarding West-leaning slogans; East-leaning slogans; fanatical slogans; the remarks of fanatics and those frozen in their belief; and those things which are within the perimeter of uncompromising Islam, none of those things must obstruct us. Then we can, after all the struggle, all the effort, all the blood and all the victims, set the country's possibilities into motion in order to present an Islamic model and bring the imam's message (?to fruition).

Now, after the things I have said, go and read the imam's message once again. Why did the imam place the country's high authorities, the heads of the branches of

government, and the prime minister in charge of the reconstruction policy? The Majlis itself can do it; the Planning and Budget Committee can do it; the Cabinet, the Supreme Economic Council, they can all do such things, as can the Ministry of Economy, the Central Bank, and the Ministry for Budget and Planning. All of them are full of experts, and they are all doing their work. However, the things which I mentioned dictate the presence of a trustworthy group which is not afraid of those slogans, which is neither afraid of those with frozen beliefs nor of those who chant leftist slogans and who want to be obstructionist in a revolutionary manner, in a pseudo-revolutionary manner. There must be a group in which people may place their trust, so that those satanic interpretations do not contaminate the people's minds. This group's vision must transcend that of others, so that they do not subscribe to factionalist and sectionalist ideas; so that they think of the society as a whole; and so that they may be able to ue the forces within society. [indistinct remark from a member of the audience] Thank-you.

It is clear what the imam wanted to say within the framework he himself indicated. He graciously stressed that reconstruction should be undertaken in such a way that the rights of the vanguards of the revolution, of the families of the martyrs, of the deprived ones, and of those injured in the war, the disabled ones, are fulfilled. He graciously said: Attend to the needs of the people to the extent suitable within an Islamic environment; prevent the fanatical slogans of those pseudo-ascetics, so that they do not obstruct the path of fundamental reforms with their slogans of opposition to the creation of consumerism; direct foreign policy intelligently, so that childish slogans cannot pose obstructions in the path of the country's reconstruction and so that supporters of the West cannot prevent us from having links with places with which we want to have contact and use in the country's reconstruction, and so that the supporters of the East cannot create obstructions from that direction.

The imam graciously said: Experts ought to be used, because a group consisting of several people, which has many responsibilities and which does not have expertise in those connections, cannot work without the assistance of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Budget and Planning, the Ministry of Economy, the Majlis, Budget and Planning Committee, the Cabinet, and others.

The imam's message contained all the principles we needed for guidance. He graciously designated an authority. He warned those who may have an obstructionist spirit or nature, and he gave his backing to those who want to serve, so that they will not have to worry about the possibility that others may pose obstructions. We are now in such circumstances, and we must be ready so that if, god willing, the war comes to an end, we can have a reconstructive movement with the maintenance of the revolution's ideals, aims, and goals and safe from narrow-mindedness, superficiality, and sloganeering. Then we can serve our society which has passed the test of Mojahed Muslims. [crowd chants]

The emphasis on the people's participation in the work of reconstruction has the aim of taking the wind out of the sails of the statists [bara-ye 'in ast ke un-ha'ikeh bishtar be fekr dolatsari hastand yek qadri hanashun rang nagireh]. The emphasis on government supervision and breaking the spell of the monopoly of interference of capital in the country's management is so that those who support capital and the rule of capital [sarmayeh-salari] will understand that the period of reconstruction is not a period for plundering people. Other things are points which you can find for yourself, and you can find the details of those points in the things which I have said today.

I have written a few phrases in Arabic about current issues for the sake of our Arab brothers and sisters, which I will read for you. In these remarks, to a large extent, I have demonstrated for the edification of the world and for the edification of Muslim, who our enemies are today. There are three important problems on the global level in connection with us and Arab countries, especially Iraq. One is the issue of oil in connection with which they are destroying the wealth of Islamic countries with that mercenary-like policy. Another is the issue of Lebanon, where we have recently witnessed the fact that Iraq, the Ba'thist Iraqi Regime, has officially supported and is militarily supporting against all Muslims Michel Awn, the Maronite, Phalange, military-man. He has been installed, in opposition to the Muslim government, by the United States, Israel, and the Phalangists. The other is the issue of Palestine, where Israel is acting in that usurious manner while Arabic countries are maintaining their same old relation with Israel's supporters. I have thus shown who our real enemy is, who is obstructing the Islamic Republic, and how the Islamic Republic maintains its own rightful positions during such crises. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker Sees No Iraqi Resumption of War

LD1710074488 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Ilam, Oct. 17, IRNA—Majlis Speaker and Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that it seemed unlikely that Iraq would resume the war again.

Addressing a group of Islamic Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) commanders here he added that this time Iran is in a powerful position. Furthermore Iran has proven its interest in peace. These, he said, have stripped the Baghdad regime of excuses.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who arrived here Sunday from the neighbouring Bakhtaran Province stressed importance of improving military knowledge both in the Army and the IRGC. A powerful army will prevent Iran's enemies from thinking of new aggression, he added.

He added that in the course of the eight years of the imposed-war Iran has achieved a great deal of experience. More on the war he said that the real victory was with Iran because the enemy was unable to reach its objectives.

On imam's last July acceptance of the UN Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war, he said that the IRGC accepted it wholeheartedly proving that it is one of the most obedient forces which follows its leader always and under all conditions.

Majlis Speaker on Priority Rehabilitation Areas

LD1510152388 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Majlis Speaker and Acting Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said the country's rehabilitation policy should be a combination of defense and development plans.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said those who have played an effective role in defending the country should actively participate in post-war reconstruction projects.

The volunteer forces who, he said, have played a key role in the course of the nearly 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war should be employed for reconstruction activities.

Speaking to a large number of local ulema, civil servants and military officials in this western provincial capital, Hashemi-Rafsanjani felt assured that Iranian youths would utilize domestic resources for reconstruction plans in the best possible manner as they did during the imposed war.

With the final end to the war, the western provinces of Ilam, Kordestan and Bakhtaran—the targets of most enemy attacks—would be given more priority during the country's rehabilitation period, Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded.

Lauds People's Resistance

LD1510192988 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Parliamentary Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today lauded the Iranian Muslims unique resistance against hardships and their loyalty to the leadership.

The world, contrary to its wishful thinking, admitted the Iranian people's power, he said adding "people's resistance gave a grand lesson to all people around the globe."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also acting commander-in-chief made the remarks to a gathering of local people and provincial officials in Bakhtaran.

Although, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, imperialist propaganda desperately tried all attempts to cloud the revolution's realities and prevent their reaching to the world, it failed miserably. Iranian Muslims resistance is no secret to the world, he noted.

The world should accept the Iranian people's firm resistance as unbowable, he said adding the trial and hardships of the imposed war is the best evidence of resistance of an independent nation. "This experience will be a historic lesson to the world's nations."

The war supremo said Wahington's naval expedition to the Persian Gulf proves the big powers' fear of the Islamic revolution. The Iranian nation, he assured, has enhanced its efforts to confront such military methods.

Khomeyni Receives Martyrs' Families

LD1710113388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Families of the martyrs, MIA's, POW's, and self-sacrificing fiaghters from Ahvaz and Tehran, together with families of martyrs from (Toroq-e Natanz) and a number of Majlis deputies from those towns, met with Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at his Jamaran residence this morning.

During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Martyrs' Foundation, gave a speech on the occasion of the anniversary of the great martyr of the altar, Ayatollah Ashrafi Esfahani, praising that great clergyman. Referring to the resistance and steadfastness of our country's Muslim people, particularly families of the martyrs, MIA's POW's, and self-sacrificing fighters from Ahvaz, he conveyed the imam's congratulations and condolences to them.

At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the cheers of the audience.

U.S. Doctors Verify Iraqi Gas Use Against Kurds

LD1610161888 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] London, Oct. 16, IRNA—American doctors working with Kurdish refugees say they have overwhelming evidence that confirms Iraq has been using outlawed poison gases. The doctors from the Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights group stated that their verification was unique and that previous evidence about Baghdad's use of chemical weapons against its Kurdish population had been mainly non-medical.

Reporting the findings from Ankara Sunday, BBC Correspondent Jane Howard said that new scientific evidence pointed to burns and skin conditions consistent with having been caused by various toxics including mustard gas.

The doctors had covered [as received] out their extensive study in two Kurdish refugee camps in southern Turkey near the Iraqi border. They said that they had been disallowed from visiting the other three camps, that in all house some 65,000 Kurds.

The flight of the Kurds into Turkey started after the Baghdad regime intensified its poison gas attacks on villages in northern Iraq that followed a ceasefire announcement in its war with Islamic Iran on August 20.

Apart from moves by the U.S. Congress to impose sanctions against Iraq, the reaction from the world community has been largely silent. The Kurdish refugees have been left to either seemingly perish in their camps or forced to return to Iraq to meet an unknown fate.

The medical evidence of Iraq's use of banned chemicals follows reports this week that Britain has intelligence information that pointed to Iraqi pilots recently dropping poison gas bombs in the Kurdish populated north.

The British Government so far has been been reluctant to condemn Baghdad's latest atrocities and the Sunday OBSERVER believed that this was because its policy was one of appeasement with Iraq.

The weekly questioned why Britain was not threatening sanctions to stop the slaughter, especially at a time it was seen as being economically vulnerable and could only conclude that the "spirit of Munich," when appeasement was offered to Hitler,"still lives in the Foreign Office."

Turkey Disregards Request on Kurdish Refugees

LD1610112888 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 16 Oct 88

["Iranian Official Says Turkey Is Wayward in Directing Iraqi Refugees to Iran"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—The Ankara government is sending the Iraqi Kurdish refugees to Iran despite the fact that Iran has requested Turkey to accept a group of them. The Kurds have fled to Turkey due to Baghdad regime's genocidal chemical attacks on their hometowns in northern Iraq.

However, the Turkish Government has not heeded this request of Iran and is sending Kurdish refugees in groups of 2,000-3,000.

About 30,000 Kurds have fled to Iran, some 15,000-18,000 of them have arrived in Iran through Turkish borders and the rest through Iraqi borders.

According to director general of the foreign nationals affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Zabihollah Nofarasti [name as received] Iran's policy towards Kurdish refugees in Turkey has not changed in the past 45 days and no new agreement has been reached in this respect with Turkish Government.

In an interview with IRNA he said that the unexpected arrival of thousands of Iraqi refugees in Iran has caused many problems to the Iranian western border provinces and has disrupted the previous plans for settlement of the refugees.

He said that the Turkish Government is sending 3,000 refugees at a time to western border areas with no previous coordination with Iran.

The Turkish border officials, he said, informed Iran that they were going to send those refugees to Iran, and proceeded do so without waiting for an answer from the Iranian border officials.

The Islamic Republic of Iran accepted these refugees on humanitarian grounds and in order to protect them from the cold weather, the official added. He said there are indications that the Turkish Government is planning to send to Iran probably all the refugees in a border camp called "Gour".

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and its Foreign Ministry has been trying to dissuade the Turkish Government from sending the refugees to Iran.

UN Group Commander, UN Envoy Visit Dezful

LD1610063688 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16 IRNA—Commander of the UNIIMOG, the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, General Slavko Jovic and special envoy of the UN chief Marrack Goulding arrived in Dezful, Khuzestan Province of IRan Saturday.

Goulding in Iran to inspect UNIIMOG forces toured western border provinces Bakhtaran and Ilam earlier where he held talks with UNIIMOG commanders and officers.

The two UN officials visited Dasht-e 'Abbas operational region and held talks with local UN forces and discussed the situation in the region. Goulding has lauded Iran's cooperation with the UNIIMOG forces in Iran.

UK's Howe Admits Hostage-Taking 'Political'

LD1510063888 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] London, Oct. 15, IRNA—Any grounds for holding hostages in Lebanon will cease when the situation in all the afflicted parts of the Middle East are eased, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has said.

He believed that there were reasons to suggest that the prospects of gaining the release of the hostages were more optimistic and were "getting better rather than worse."

"If we continue to see progress towards a calmer state of affairs in all the troubled areas of the Middle East, then the reason, there is no justifiable reason people are being held hostage begins to disappear," he said.

Howe was expressing views on BBC television Thursday and are seen as the clearest admission yet from the British Government that people are being held in Lebanon for political causes. He offered no indication what moves may be happening to help their plight.

Lobby groups in London see the West's support for the illicit state of Israel as being a main issue and point out that hostage taking stemmed from its invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. The first foreign hostages were four Iranians, seized by Christian Phalangists, which was ignored by the world's media. Their fate is still unknown.

The Zionists regime is thought to be still holding over 400 Palestinian hostages from its original invasion and stays occupying a large part of southern Lebanon, yet receives little publicity and nothing is known if moves are afoot from the West to redress this.

As the West's former spy centre for the Middle East, Beirut houses many other problems, not least the sectarian civil war which the U.S., Western Europe and the Zionist entity continue to manipulate.

There is also the pervasive Palestinian cause and the right to their homeland, which remains at the root of most of the ills that has stemmed from it.

OPEC Fund Managing Director Arrives 15 Oct

NC1510071488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The managing director of the OPEC Fund arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by the deputy minister of economic affairs and finance. During his 5-day in Tehran, the OPEC Fund managing director will meet with economic officials of our country and will exchange views with them on OPEC Fund issues.

It should be noted that the OPEC Fund was formed with investments by the 13 OPEC member countries to extend loans to Third World countries that are not members of OPEC.

Majlis Approves First 5-Year Development Plan

LD1610150488 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—The Majlis (Parliament) today approved the bill on the first five-year development plan in its first debate on the issue.

The plan outlines economic, social and cultural development of the country and will be implemented next calendar year (starting March 21, 1989).

Speaking to the open session of the Majlis, Minister of Budget and Planning Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani defended the bill and stressed that a comprehensive plan is vital for the development of the country.

Commentary on Moscow's Moves in Afghanistan

LD1510225788 Tehran Domestic Sevice in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Commentary: "USSR and the New Efforts on the Issue of Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] There are 4 more months left to the total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan—15 February 1989. [passage omitted] Worth mentioning in this respect are Moscow's fresh political efforts, which were formed simultaneously with the start of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, and again now on the eve of the withdrawal of the remaining troops. The Kremlin statesmen are continuing their new tactical moves.

It has become clear to the Soviets that at the end of its troops' presence in Afghanistan, the Kabul regime does not possess the power to confront the Muslim revolutionaries and the Muslim people of that country. According to experts on Afghanistan, Moscow's policies on Afghanistan have remained constant, as seen by its emphasis on finding a political solution to the Afghanistan issue. It appears, however, that the Soviet Union's desire to find a quick solution to this problem has, under the present conditions, limited Moscow's change in tactics. This comes at a time when the Kabul regime has revealed its weakness in the military sphere, as well as in political and social areas, as is seen in the deepening of the old rift within the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

In view of this, according to political commentators, maintaining the unstable Najibullah regime is no longer considered so important by the USSR. Moscow's intention is to establish a seemingly powerful faction by bringing together the moderates and those forces who, due to their sociopolitical condition, were not communists but supported Soviet influence in Afghanistan against the united force of the mujahidin, and in this way, following the complete withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, which, in Mikhail Gorbachev's opinion is: the USSR leader is a wound which can not be healed. [sentence as heard] The USSR seeks to guarantee the political, and particularly the economic interests, which is of great importance to that country's neighboring republics. In this respect, Moscow's goal now appears to be to establish a coalition government with the participation of communists—which was previously proposed by the UN mediator on Afghanistan—and also of moderate forces, intellectuals, and nationalists.

Since the implementation of such a plan has been facing difficulties due to Afghan mujahidin opposition, it will probably end in defeat. The Kremlin leadership has

decided to closely review and solve its problems by sending Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister and member of that country's Communist Party Central Committee, as ambassador to Kabul. It is said that Vorontsov's presence in Kabul, accompanied by the commander of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, will probably lead to changes in the leadership of the Kabul regime, changes which in the view of regional diplomatic sources will lead to the establishment of a pro-Soviet government under the leadership of Muhammad Hasan Sharq, who recently endorsed a new economic pact aimed at safeguarding Soviet interests in Afghanistan.

It is said that the gathering of the factions affiliated with the Kabul regime in a new government, if realized, could spell danger for the Afghan mujahidin. It would not only isolate them from political scenes, and weaken the consolidation efforts of the Afghan rebel groups and leaders, but will also seriously endanger Afghanistan's freedom and independence.

Flag of Freedom Notes Ongoing Talks With U.S.

TA1410171988 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Informed circles in Tehran are saying that in recent weeks five officials of the Islamic Republic held talks with U.S. authorities regarding the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Three of the Iranian officials are Mohammad Javad Larijani, the deputy foreign minister; Meshabi, who is a confidant of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; and [name indistinct]. Apparently the talks have still not produced tangible results.

IRGC Terrorist Unit Reportedly 'Disbanded'

TA1410174588 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] We have learned that the Islamic Republic regime, having informed the United States and Britain through its European contacts that it will no longer engage in terrorist activities, kidnapping, and hostage-taking, has now disbanded the terrorist activities unit of the IRGC.

Our fellow strugglers have reported that kidnapping and hostage-taking operations in Lebanon used to be masterminded by various organizations in the Islamic Republic. After these operations were approved by Islamic Republic authorities and their budget allocated, they were carried out by the Lebanese Hizballah and IRGC personnel stationed in Beirut. Western intelligence experts believe that so long as the Islamic Republic has not disbanded all terrorist activities units and cut their funds, one should treat the Islamic Republic's words with caution. The dissolution of the IRGC terrorist activities unit alone does not suffice.

Pakistan

'Sabotage' Blamed for Ziaul Haq Plane Crash

BK1610134088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 16 (AFP)—The airplane crash that killed the late Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq was caused by a "highly sophisticated act of sabotage," the team investigating the case said Sunday. Secretary of Defence Ijlal Haider Zaidi ruled out technical failure as the cause of the crash when he released at a news conference the 350-page report on the technical aspect of the C-130 crash.

U.S. Ambassador to Islamabad Arnold Raphel and 28 other people were also killed in the crash in the east of Pakistan on August 17.

The report was made public after approval by the cabinet on Sunday. Mr Zaidi said the Pakistan Air Force investigation board headed by Air Commodore Abbas Mirza and assisted by the U.S. experts did not find any evidence of mechanical failure in the C-130 aircraft.

"It was not a technical failure," he said apparently contradicting a U.S. press report that mechanical fault had caused the crash.

"There was also no evidence of high intensity or low intensity explosion," he added. He also ruled out the possibility of an outside attack by a missile or the physical incapacitation of the pilot or the co-pilot. A hijack attempt or an act of suicide by someone on board were also discounted because it would have been impossible to overpower both the pilot and the co-pilot, he said.

The investigators recovered contaminated material from the wreckage and discovered traces of antimony, phosphorous sodium and potassium beyond the normal quantity, he added.

Commodore Mirza recommended a further probe in the report. "The only possibility is that it is a criminal act of highly sophisticated sabotage," Commodore Mirza said in the report.

Mr Zaidi said it was too premature to lay responsibility on anyone. No arrests have been made, though some people have been interrogated, he added.

He said the government had accepted the board's recommendation to thoroughly investigate the criminal aspect of the crash.

Army, civil and police investigating teams have begun probing into the case, said F.K. Bandial, a senior bureaucrat who was appointed coordinator of the investigation last month. Mr Bandial said these agencies have been "proceding in the pursuit of their task in a very covert and discreet manner."

More on Report on Crash

BK1610161088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The Federal Cabinet met in Islamabad today. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan presided over the session. The cabinet was informed about the outcome of the steps taken by the authorities concerned over the decision of the government to improve the law and order situation. The cabinet also made a detailed review of the law and order situation.

The cabinet was informed about the report of the Pakistani Air Force inquiry board, which was set up to investigate the cause of the plane crash in which the late president Ziaul Haq and other senior officers were killed. It was decided to inform the people about the investigations.

The technical report reveals that the accident did not occur due to technical failure, but there is a likelihood that it was the result of a sophisticated act of sabotage or a criminal act. The technical committee was headed by Pakistani Air Force Air Commodore Abbas Mirza and this team was assisted by an advisory committee of U.S. experts.

The report says it is possible that the pilot and the copilot were crippled with chemical materials and these chemical materials might have been kept in bottles, boxes, and gift parcels in the plane. These chemical materials or gas can be activated by automatic methods or remote control [preceding two words rendered in English] and the pilot can be crippled and his (?muscles) can be incapacitated.

This analysis was made in the laboratories of the Pakistani atomic science and technology and this analysis reveals the presence of many materials. Some of these materials are not generally present in the structure of the aircraft, fuel or lubricant. There is no evidence of any explosion of moderate or low intensity. The inquiry board made a detailed review of the all evidence, statements of witnesses, parts of the aircraft, chemical analyses, maintenance procedures, and security arrangements and investigated these aspects.

Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, the defense secretary said this is a technical inquiry and various federal and provincial agencies are working on other aspects of the inquiry. The secretary to provinces and border areas, who is also the liaison officer at federal level, was present on the occasion.

In reply to a question, the defense secretary said that national and foreign experts will investigate. In reply to another question he said no person has been arrested, but some persons have been interrogated in connection with the inquiry.

Ordinance Makes Shari'a 'Supreme Source of Law'

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[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has promulgated enforcement of Shari'a Revised Ordinance 1988. The ordinance, which comes into force immediately, contains minor modifications in the ordinance promulgated earlier June last by the late president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Under the ordinance, shari'a has been made supreme source of law in Pakistan, a guiding principle for policy and lawmaking by the state.

Pakistan Muslim League Factions Unite

BK1410121788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 14 (AFP) - Two strong factions of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) decided to join forces Friday, posing a fresh challenge to opposition leader Benazir Bhutto in forthcoming national elections. Merger of the two factions—led by Fida Mohammad Khan and ex-premier Mohammad Khan Junejo—would make the November 16 vote a straight fight between the PML and Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

A spokesman for Mr. Junejo's group said the rival factions decided to close ranks in the interests of the PML and the nation. "All major points have been settled. Only minor issues are to be thrashed out," he said.

Mr. Junejo, who has been campaigning in southern Sind region, was to travel to Lahore late Friday to sign merger documents with Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, a driving force behind the Fida faction, the spokesman said. Under the merger deal, hammered out by National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chattha and Punjab Provincial Assembly Speaker Manzur Wattoo, Mr. Junejo would become the PML's president and Mr. Sharif its secretary general.

The PML, patronised by late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq during his 11 years as Pakistan's ruler, was bitterly divided after his death in an August plane crash.

The two factions, conscious of Ms. Bhutto's popularity, each formed coalitions with like-minded parties, with Mr. Junejo heading a three-party Pakistan People's Alliance and Mr. Nawaz Sharif leading an eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance. While the latter group is likely to remain intact due to its right-wing leanings, analysts say the merger might cause friction among members of Mr. Junejo's coalition which includes the centrist Tehrik-i-Istiqlal and moderate, religious Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan headed by Shah Ahmed Noorani.

News of the merger came less than a day after Mrs. Bhutto's PPP—emerging as the strong favorite in the election—unveiled its manifesto in Karachi which laid strong emphasis on improving Pakistan's economy. She told reporters that her party's aim was "to make Pakistan a nation of 21st century...free of poverty and exploitation" while promoting "political consensus and understanding."

Observers noted that the PPP platform was non-vocal on major foreign policy issues such as Afghanistan, relations with India, and ties to Pakistan's traditional ally, the United States. It pledged adherence to the Geneva accord, under which Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Afghanistan, but it did not say if it would pursue Gen. Zia's policy of supporting anti-Kabul guerrillas.

The PPP also said it would restore Pakistan's 1973 Constitution, drastically amended by Gen. Zia, to provide greater autonomy to provinces and increase the powers of the Pakistani Senate.

Bhutto's Wife, 2 Daughters File Nomination Papers

BK1510145488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Karachi, Pakistan, Oct 15 (AFP)—Begum Nusrat Bhutto, leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), will contest National Assembly elections in November along with her two daughters, Benazir and Sanam, party sources said here Saturday. Begum Bhutto filed her nomination papers from Larkana, southern Sind Province, the home constituency of her late husband, former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the sources said. Nomination papers for a National Assembly seat have also been filed on Begum Bhutto's behalf in Chakwal Town of northern Punjab Province, the sources said.

Her eldest daughter, Benazir Bhutto, PPP co-chairperson, is contesting another National Assembly seat from Larkana and one from Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab, the sources said.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto has also filed nomination papers on behalf of her younger sister, Sanam Bhutto, from Karachi's Liari Constituency, the sources said.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto's father-in-law, Hakim Ali Zardari, who recently resigned as vice president of the pro-Moscow Awami National Party in Sind, has joined PPP. He has been given a ticket to contest National Assembly elections from his home town of Nawabshah in Sind, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Afghan Charge of Reconnaissance Flight Rejected

BK1610090188 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected a protest made by the Kabul authorities alleging that a Pakistan aircraft entered Afghan airspace from (Lalabagh) last Tuesday [11 October] for a minute's reconnaissance flight. The charge d'affaire of the Kabul regime was summoned to the foreign office in Islamabad this morning and was told that the allegation was investigated and found to be baseless.

PRC Deputy Chief of General Staff Arrives

BK1510042088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The deputy chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, General He Qizong, arrived in Rawalpindi yesterday evening on a 5-day official visit to Pakistan. Army chief Gen Mirza Aslam Beg received him at the airport.

Honored With National Award

BK1610025588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] President Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz, military, on the visiting deputy chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, General He Qizong, at a ceremony in Islamabad last night. He has been conferred this award in recognition of his valuable contribution in promoting understanding and good relations between Pakistan and China and increasing bilateral cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

Earlier, Gen He Qizong and his delegation members called on the president at the Presidency. The chief of the Army staff, Gen Mirza Aslam Beg, was also present on the occasion. The Chinese deputy chief of General Staff also visited the tomb of martyred President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and laid a wreath and stood in silence in respect for the late president.

New Battle Tank Being Built Jointly With PRC

BK1410162188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] China and Pakistan have started working jointly on building a new battle tank at the Heavy Rebuild Factory near Islamabad. Announcing this, the Pakistani

chief of Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, said that the joint work is a significant breakthrough in defense technology. Reports say that the new battle tank is likely to be the modernized T-59 with 105 mm gun.

Gold, Copper Project Planned With Chinese Aid

BK1510163888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Construction work for the Saindak copper and gold project in Chaghai District of Baluchistan is to start soon with Chinese assistance. Giving details of the agreement, which was signed by the two countries in Beijing, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan said in Islamabad today that the project will be completed in 4 years. After its completion, the project will yield up to 15,800 tons of copper, 1.6 tons of gold, and 2.7 tons of silver annually.

Industry Minister Resigns To Run in Elections

BK1410112988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Industry Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain disclosed at a news conference in Islamabad today that he has resigned from the Federal Cabinet. He said: I met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today and handed him my resignation so that I can contest the elections as an ordinary citizen. The president accepted the resignation, he said.

Customs Officials Seize Over 80 kg of Heroin

BK1510161088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] In the Northwest Frontier Province, customs officials seized over 80 kg of heroin from an oil tanker on Dera Bhakkar Road last night. The heroin was concealed in hidden chambers of the oil tanker.